

## CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:30 p.m.  
HOOKER CONFERENCE ROOM #245, CITY HALL  
401 N. MORTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, IN  
**Via Zoom**

**Call to Order:**

-4:30 pm

### **Volunteer Recorder for today:**

Verify Quorum, Additional Agenda Items  
Leanne Zdravecky, Kelsey Halsip, Jack Kahn, Philip Stafford, Sue Owens, and Jenny Donegan

Guest: Melissa Stone, Bloomington Police Department

**Approval of Minutes:** April approved Jack Kahn 1st and Lori Clendening 2nd

### **Liaison Report:** Sue

Yes Seniors are getting the help they need through the volunteer network when they reach out to the commission on aging office.

Introduction of New Commissioner, Leanne Zdravecky ( The Z is silent) Leanne worked at the Monroe County Public Library and was part of the outreach van that would work with home bound elders. This opportunity gave her an insight to the lives and concerns of elders in our community and that coupled with her parents aging and her goals for her own future. Leanne was recruited on to the commission by Jenny Donegan. She worked closely with Chris Jackson at MCPL and Chris has reached out to the CoA for data on our aging population and information that can be of value as the library is developing their future strategic plan. Great connections. Phil to followup with an email and will share with the commissioners.

### **Old Business:**

- Lifetime Communities: Hospital Site (Phil) Sue suggest that the next step might be to follow the protocol as a Commission. Phil will send his request for information through Sue the Liaison and then that goes to Beverly and then that is forwarded through the protocol channels for better results. Since the meeting this is article is from May 15, 2020

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### **Update:**

<http://www.wbiw.com/2020/05/15/public-engagement-sought-in-hospital-site-redevelopment-process/>  
[Public Engagement Sought In Hospital Site Redevelopment Process](#)

May 15, 2020

(BLOOMINGTON) – The City invites residents to participate in and learn more about the process of redeveloping the current site of IU Health Bloomington Hospital.

A new website will be launched on June 1 (accessible from this [link](#)) to host project updates and welcome residents to engage in the site planning process throughout the master planning period this year. IU Health Bloomington Hospital, an anchor in downtown Bloomington for over a century, will vacate the property when the new IU Health Regional Academic Health Center opens on the city's east side in 2021.

The City purchased the 24-acre site at Second and Rogers from IU Health in 2018 in order to re-envision and pursue redevelopment options to help meet community goals for affordable housing, sustainable development, equity and inclusion. In early 2020, the City, through its Redevelopment Commission, contracted with the architecture and urban planning firm [Skidmore, Owings & Merrill](#) (SOM) to oversee the process of developing a master plan for the site, including intensive community engagement and site design options. The master planning team recently began working with the Hospital Reuse Committee, a group of more than 30 community members who have been involved with the City on this project since 2015.

“This downtown site presents a very rare and exciting opportunity to re-imagine and activate a key Bloomington location in ways that will foster our whole community, strengthen our economy, and sustain our environment,” said Mayor John Hamilton. “I encourage anyone who loves Bloomington and cares about our future to get involved in the process of imagining and achieving a new, inclusive and dynamic vision for this extraordinary property.”

Community members may choose among numerous ways to participate in the master planning process including the project website feedback form, town hall meetings, small focus groups, newsletters, and email updates. A first stage of the master planning process will include facilitated small focus group sessions and individual discussions with stakeholders identified with assistance from the Hospital Reuse Committee, conducted virtually by SOM beginning in late May.

“This is an opportunity for the public to participate in the initial planning discussions so that we are sure the future development reflects both the needs of our citizens and the ambiance of our City,” said Senator Vi Simpson, Chair of the Hospital Reuse Committee.

These sessions will be conducted virtually by SOM and will begin in late May. Public engagement will continue with a virtual town hall to be held on June 16 at 6 p.m., during which community members can share ideas about uses the site should serve and how the plan should embody community values, such as affordability, walkability, placemaking, innovation, and sustainability. Residential and commercial water customers will receive information in their June utility bill about the project and how to participate in these public engagement opportunities.

The master planning process is building upon the [recommendations](#) created for the site by a team of nationally renowned land use and urban planning experts representing the [Urban Land Institute](#) (ULI). ULI created their report after a 2018 visit to Bloomington during which team members gathered input from more than 100 community stakeholders and developed a set of recommendations and options for the reuse of the site.

SOM will pursue ULI’s recommendations for designing the site for mixed use, including retail, residential, and office space, possibly incorporating a community center, and appropriately reintegrating the “mega-block” into its surroundings by reintroducing the street grid, and connecting to nearby parks and trails.

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Note: Can we have this shared to the commissioners and put on the agenda for June to review the website that launches June, 2020.

- AAC connection (Lori) Making masks for the senior community. Active Aging Coalition. The meeting are at Gentry
- Intergenerational Choir (Phil, Lori, Robert) Kelsey reached out to Lori Clendening and reached out to Nakia Sing for Joy and Nightngals Project. Lori update on the

Meadowwood Chior said that it would be a great fit for MeadowWood and Sounds of the South Youth Choir.

### **New Business**

- Convening of Providers and Seniors at Endwright East (Phil, Jenny) Phil has created a list of 20 people and an agenda for the roundtable. The roundtable will be an opportunity to see the gaps from the service provider community to advise our goals and mission. Phil sent an email for volunteers to select names to track down contact information and reach out to the contact to invite to participate in the roundtable and we will use Zoom to create a virtual Roundtable. Commissions have selected names and have begun the process. The next steps will be to collect the contacts and then Phil will reach out the master list to reach out with Doodle poll to participant list. Once we have a date the request goes to Marissa and Sue to schedule a Zoom Roundtable conference that will allow for the technology to have the Video room set up to have a large room with many participants to introduce the larger audience to the roundtable and then participants can be designated to specific small zoom roundtable discussions and all of the meetings can be recorded. I will work with Marissa if you would like to support the processed of the multipoint video conference with breakout rooms.

- COVID-19 response by COA (Phil)

In an existential sense we all die alone. Yet, we often feel reassured when the obituaries we read include “surrounded by family.” But being surrounded by family (however defined) in our final minutes is, in this time of crisis, an unfulfilled wish. In this time the ferryman (Charon in Greek Mythology) taking us across the river is a health care worker. Imagine being trained to restore people to health yet called upon again and again to hold the hand of the dying person who, literally, is fearfully drowning in front of your eyes. And, having served that noble and anguished purpose, you cannot yourself fall into the embrace of your co-workers or even, perhaps, your own family.

We must express our appreciation and love for these health care workers who take our place as the new family of those who are dying. Standing on balconies to clap and bang pans is helpful but perhaps falls short – the equivalent of the perfunctory “thank you for your service” we provide to soldiers in the airport without truly knowing what they have sacrificed.

It is not only through our words but through our own actions that we can express this appreciation. The action of social distancing. The wearing of a face covering. The provision of a smile, which can be seen from six feet. These are things we do for each other that, in fact, constitute the best form of appreciation to the frontline care workers. For it is through these actions that we reduce the patient population - reduce the anguish and stress of care work as it is experienced these days.

The Bloomington Commission on Aging serves to bring attention to the needs and contributions of older adults in our community. Knowing that the oldest among us are the most vulnerable, how can we abandon them in their time of need? How can we thank the greatest generation for its contributions to our freedom and prosperity while flagrantly throwing caution to the wind in order to return to the beach and the bar without distancing, without masks? Armed protestors proclaim their rights to reject face coverings in the name of freedom while they, themselves, jeopardize the lives of those elders who fought for freedom in their name.

I am bothered by the sub-text of the public attitude that implies the very old are dispensable, that they are near death anyway and life is for the living, meaning the young, the robust. Some envision a future in which old people, as a group, will be required to stay home while others frolic in public. Traveling through the streets of Bloomington and seeing crowds of young people sucking beer on front porches is galling. But it is not just young people. In many places, it is quickly becoming unusual to see a mask.

Of course we all want to return to normal. But we cannot rush. Some have said the virus is just normal as is the flu, so what's the big deal? So it's ok that 26,000 older people died from the flu in the 18/19 flu season? It's not

ok. If we truly value our elders, we must go beyond the sometimes patronizing reverence and take action not just for ourselves but for others. Keep your distance. Wear your mask. Keep the faith.

Philip B. Stafford, Chair  
Bloomington Commission on Aging

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Phil asks how we can look at outreach and community building. Letter to the Editor . . .

Jenny acknowledges the reach of our email blast of the CoA Newsletter and it would be great to leverage the info in the newsletter out to Facebook maybe a link or pdf. Constant Contact is the technology that runs the email newsletter program. Marissa is looking into maybe sharing a link on Facebook from newsletter. Sue and Marissa will review the policy of the city on information sharing and report back to the commission.

Jenny recommends that we connect with the Mutual Aid Covid-19 Facebook page, MCPL page, MeadowWood so we can connect individually and by the commission page. Looking forward to getting direction through guidelines to establish to follow to get the information flowing.

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Leanne would like to see the teen space used during the day for outreach to elders, she going to get more information and be our liaison at the Library and help us to collaborate.

- NCOA Survey idea (Yonda)

Marissa and Jenny to look into how to leverage the HELP database or other email lists to provide a conduit for the CoA to reach our audience via email, electronic survey or other data sources. I would like to keep Yonda in the loop as this is her project and I want to make sure we are honoring her original request and she sees the value in leveraging our technology and take a broader approach that will modularize the survey into sections of interest by the person taking the survey. Jenny will reach out to Marissa for next steps and collaboration.

How Reports are created using Aunt Berta aka HELP . . .

<https://support.auntbertha.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004390252-Analytics-Program-Reporting-Overview>

Recommendation to have the survey broken down to our core area groups supported by the CoA, sub-committees produce and support their area examples: Health Care, Technology, Food Security, Accessibility, Service Providers, . . . Recommendation to have agenda item to designate official sub-committees, maybe use the Google drive to have secured protocol of info sharing for the sub-committees or have a private Facebook group of the sub-committee that would then make recommendation to the official Facebook page thus vetting the info. that Sue can get to approve for posting.

- **Adjourn** Jack Kahn 1st and 2nd Leanne Zdraveky  
-5:30 pm