

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 4:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:**

-4:30 pm

Present: Phil, Yonda, Jenny, Kelsey

Guest: Brent Molnar (WTIU)

Volunteer Recorder for today: Yonda

Verify Quorum, Additional Agenda Items. No quorum as of 4:38 but starting Jennifer resigned. Jack is still in care.

Approval of Minutes – September

Announcements: Brent Molnar – WTIU Conference on Aging. Third annual conference is underway. Saturday mornings at 10:00am. Two of 8 sessions done. One day conference usually but this year is a series of one hour sessions. Can go to WTIU website to see sessions and agenda. So far have had 200 registrations – little larger than last year. 11 states represented. Phil asked if had mini-university mailing list for outreach. He does not have that. Does have FB, Twitter and Instagram links that he can forward for Commission to distribute. Can use the newsletter to announce future sessions. Brent will send link to Sue and she will send to Commissioners. Lessons learned for virtual conference: have two hosts to offset presenter connection issues; have email open to keep in touch with all participants during session despite things like screen sharing; put conference on cell phone so that can monitor the participant experience; do tech rehearsals. As far as content – this has been tricky. Didn't charge this year because sponsors covered expenses. Recording sessions because it has been webinar format and believes will need to record going forward. May do "greatest hits" next year in order to build a library of content.

1. **Presentation:** Dementia Friendly Training:

Zoom Link: <https://iuhealth.zoom.us/j/5451877976>

Meeting ID: 545 187 7976

One tap mobile: +13126266799

Each commissioner who has not been trained should visit this link and complete the training so she can certify the commission again. We need a minimum number of people to complete this in order to be certified. Phil asked if anybody objected to doing it this way? Need to make sure she's not waiting on us before proceeding. Sue is emailing her.

2. **Old Business:**

- a. Lifetime Community – Third forum sponsored by the city on the redevelopment of the hospital district occurred last week. It is recorded. Website is bloomingtonhospitalsite.com to view. There will be one more final public forum. Architects and planners will present a more or less final version of the master plan for the site. Site includes the 24 acres the city will own as well

as acreage on associated properties – not owned by hospital but with medical use that may change due to zoning. Phil has been satisfied with proposals and plans but not the extent of public participation in the plan. Next announcement will come from Sue about the fourth public forum. This doesn't preclude public participation later – plan is fairly abstract at this point. Phrase Lifetime Community has been used by planners!

- b. Provider Roundtable – next steps – Two actions discussed at last meeting, although minutes not approved. 1. Affirm that social isolation was a major issue that emerged from the roundtables, so next steps discussed about a second roundtable with a plan for quarterly roundtables. Idea was presented to do a roundtable on social isolation in particular and provide some content to draw an audience. Phil contacted Lori C to provide a brief presentation on creative approaches to social isolation at Meadowwood – NF and housing, alongside COVID response. Have not heard back yet about a date and an agenda. Hope to do by end of the year. Should we open these to the public? Should it go in the newsletter?
- Kelsey asked about what the goal of that is – if educational could be okay to open to the community. If it is about information gathering, that could be problematic.
 - Brent offered a thought – this group is how he learned of webinar on loneliness – Ohio researcher with iPads – reminds him of a tai chi program that WTIU used to run. Found out later that there was a group of seniors that watched the program at the same time then called each other about it. PBS prime time shows have discussion guides. Masterpiece has experimented with creating a “book club”. Facilities could do this. Commission could develop senior chat rooms.
 - Jenny – discussion of importance of digital access issues.
 - Brent – Datacasting is new technology – for homes that don't have broadband. Free over the air transmission that goes to a small in-home receiver (~\$200) that harvests content and then can be connected via device. Being used for educational purposes.
 - Phil – predictors of loneliness include low income low education among the most impacted by the digital divide. Telephone cited in study as a primary method of connection for many seniors. Commission has discussed an interest in supporting the role of computers and access in addressing problems. Role of Commission is murky – catalytic in nature mostly. May want to think about the third roundtable as a forum for discussing role of technology and programs that might be picked up by community organizations.
 - Jenny discussed partnering with Brent/WTIU – resource sharing
 - Phil – getting links in newsletter is great first step. There is a history program online that is popular. Links could be access to content. Could plant seeds with provider community by showing what's possible at third round table. Jenny could help with the agenda.
 - Jenny would love to do that. Partnering with Area 10 on a program now. Concerned that practices add barriers for elders. Wants to see city step up and provide training for the community.
 - The topic of digital access should stay on our agenda.
- c. Senior Surveys – does NCOA survey address digital access?
- d. Dementia Friendly Conference (missed this)
- e. Officer Elections – no quorum so no official business. Still looking for a secretary. Let Sue know if you are interested.

3. New Business:

a. Digital Survey – Jenny – involved in the interview process. extensive interviews with community members. Met others who may be aligned with what the Commission wants to do. Had to review research. 90 minutes long with extensive Q&A about solutions and what have you done toward solutions? Tech Heroes work provided good basis for responding. Put forth: Link for Claude Pepper Senior Center grant that she would like city to apply for; BroadBand City Initiative; looking at

the divide she sees between asking community members to participate in online activities when they don't have access or assume email access without supporting that in some way. Compared broadband to "water". Part of digital information collection toward developing a digital strategic plan. Included in the chat: (Some preliminary findings from the Digital Equity Community Survey include: 12% of low-income respondents never interact with the internet. The homework gap (problems completing homework due to internet deficiencies) is significant for lower-bandwidth households. Existing subsidy programs from internet service providers aren't fully being used by eligible residents. Caregivers are concerned about risks and their ability to protect minor children from online harms. Low-income residents report a lack of desired computing skills and are interested in training to improve their skills. The skills gap is pronounced for low-income and older residents: 50% of such respondents think they do not have the skills they need to use the internet effectively and comfortably. Fully half of respondents said their job now requires internet access at home. There is broad support for the City doing more to address digital equity issues and to improve broadband in Bloomington.) Believes the roundtable helped raise awareness of this. Phil asked if interviews were to be published – not sure. Consulting company has done work in other cities th. at are pretty progressive. Will send information. Phil asked if City is developing a master plan. She said yes and references link: <https://bloomington.in.gov/news/2020/08/05/4542>

Need to use Commissions more effectively in initiatives like this. Phil asked Sue about inviting Rick to our meeting to discuss this initiative. She asked for an email request. Discussion of the fact that this is an issue that cross-cuts lots of population segments.

Discussion of fiber optic cable – Endeavor (similar to REMC) – cooperative that is laying fiber optic in rural areas.

Jenny added some grant information: Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs) This FOA (Funding Opportunity Announcement) supports applications for Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs), centers of excellence in geriatrics research and research education, to increase scientific knowledge leading to better ways to maintain or restore independence in older persons. The OAIC awards are designed to develop or strengthen awardee institutions' programs that focus on and sustain progress in a key area in aging research related to the mission of the OAIC program. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-21-024.html> Extensive discussion followed.

4. Adjourn 6:03