

Minutes
Senior Services | Aging in Place Task Force
Community Engagement and Inclusion Working Group
April 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

Community engagement and Inclusion Working Group meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

2. Roll Call

List of Community Engagement and Inclusion Working Group attendants:

Present: Sarah Kindinger, Chair; Howard Collens, Vice Chair; Ellen Kehoe; Christina Clarke; Sandy Irwin; Deb Soverinsky; Jacky Hudson

Absent:Carolynn Moore; Kim Johnson

Others present: Peter Young, Graduate City Manager Fellow

3. Approve meeting minutes from April 5, 2022

Motion to approve April 5 meeting minutes.

Corrections:

- Page 1 item form “external survey doc” Pg 2 allow seniors to access classes for free
- Happening in business community
- programing misspelled

Approve meeting minutes with four corrections

Motion by Sandy Irwin

Second by Christina Clarke

Aye: All

Nay: None

4. Continue working on recommendations

Sandy consolidated the group’s recommendations into a single document. During tonight’s meeting, the group reviewed these recommendations and made changes. Sarah typed the changes into document, which is attached. Tonight’s meeting minutes mostly include important dialogue, key changes, and discussion about the goals and steps of the Community Engagement and Inclusion working group.

Additional thoughts about current recommendations?

- Next step will be short-, medium-, and long-term goals for the city.
- Human library got a lot of positive feedback.

Recommendation 1; Action item D recommendations:

- Using the ‘go-gos’ classification without context doesn't make a lot of sense. These terms will be defined earlier in the document.

How would we do action item B?

- Do we want to limit it to auditing classes or make it more open ended? Sure. Change from higher education to more general education. How would seniors find out about it? The school could put out a booklet. The communication group could look at how to get this info out.

Recommendation #2; Action item C

- There is a great book called chase's calendar of events.
- Would you have a seniors month? Yeah, we could say to include a senior day. It would be cool to have a city driven celebration of our senior days. May has been recognized as older american month.
- Add a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) counsel for the city

Recommendation #3

- The group discusses Boston's volunteer property tax reduction.
 - Maybe we can find other incentives like free parking, downtown dollars, discount at local business, services, ect.
 - If you employ seniors you get a reduction in your taxes.

Recommendation #4 Action item A

- The group discusses on diversifying perspectives in city groups and commissions
- Develop a senior recruitment program.

How about a tutorial experience to get people more comfortable?

- How about reaching out to the group that deals with aging to get an idea of what senior's needs are?
 - They could give their perspective or even recruit people.
 - Equitable engagement, meeting people where they are and not wait until they come to you.

The city could develop a likeminded coalition to lobby the state government and allow boards and commissions to meet virtually.

Board and commission openings need better visibility and not just posted on the website—talk to the communication group about this.

Have open forum events with community leaders and seniors; meet where the seniors are.

We're applying for a grant as a task force to create decks of informative community cards and host a game night with community officials.

We are taking our list to the other groups; We will hopefully have one more meeting in three weeks and remove our last meeting. Once we have finalized what do we do? Sarah is writing 7 sections of the plan. It goes to public engagement. We send a draft to AARP. Send to city commission for approval; send back to AARP for certification. Add a quarterly taskforce newsletter.

5. Public comment

None

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Howard Collens

Second by Sandy Irwin

Approved unanimously