

Freedom Advisory Committee on Aging
Notes, 12/20/18 meeting

Attending:

Linda Habif via phone, Rick Davidson, Anne Cunningham, Cindy Fleming, Sandy Boyle and Cheryl Harris. Community Attendees : Neal Boyle + Tom Brynie (sp)

Minutes of the December 6th meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Rick talked about ServiceLink and 211 websites but they have little concrete information and not intuitive. They are willing to make improvements but don't really have the staff; very happy that we are planning (hoping) to hire a coordinator.

We should get a list of all the agencies and organizations that should be on the website
We are doing more than most communities. The Libraries are getting involved somewhat
Elizabeth's email list is one of the best ways of community communication.

Rick reviewed the Gibson Center Committees:

Outdoor Spaces where are good flat walking areas and town gardens and good sitting/interaction spaces, sidewalks etc.

Transportation Uber is in Conway, (\$50 round trip from Tamworth to Conway). Not likely to get bus service, RSVP concept is about the best thing out there. Sandy says that Community Club got volunteer drivers through the winter and now the list is going to Church. Freedom may be a bit ahead in this.

Community Connections Looking at ways to communicate. AARP provides funding for postcards but AARP wants mailing lists from the town. Double-edged sword as they keep reaching out (we should ask for funding for our future communication). Big question for Freedom is whether we should have our own website/page. Coordinator may be limited by town website rules.

Another topic that came up for communication is that we were given go-ahead to approach schools (Jake Stevens, Pat Hatfield & Rick and Gail Bizer met last week) and that there is a list of folks who can come to read or walk on field trip etc. Looking for a vetting process that allows reciprocity for various SAUs. Pat has seen programs where the 5th & 6th grade kids volunteer and help folks out (and get paid). Trying to get this going again. Rick's job in past was to get teachers to use technology and thinks this could be a model for working here in Freedom.

Housing very active. Affordable Housing is an issue in MWV for working folks as well as elderly. Air B & B is impacting how towns are looking at housing. Some folks are buying homes just for Air B&B, others rent out their second home but not necessarily for 52 weeks a year. They are clearly a rental, a business but if not over 6 months it isn't commercial. Two sides and very far apart. Cheryl mentioned that All Things Considered is having a story about alternative housing practices today.

Health headed by Marianne Jackson a retired physician. REAP has someone who will come in and help assess mental health issues no one at MWV knew about this organization. Service Link does help with Medicare secondary information to folks as well as Inter-generational events, dementia care, opioid addiction issues, (grandparents becoming parents) etc.

He will meet in Jan to do final work for AARP submission to become an age-friendly community. Says we are far further along than they expected.

There is some concern in the community that this committee's goal is to get rid of the school. That is not a goal of this committee however if there are spaces in the school that are available for use then perhaps it may become a resource. Supposedly we have permission from Pat Stone to use a room for BP checks but that perhaps should be done by the town health officer.

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Rick recommends that we go to the BOS with our proposal for a coordinator and we will ask to be on the BOS agenda on 1/7. No future meetings until after meet with BOS on 1/7/19.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Harris