



**Age Friendly Communities Collaborative
December 5, 2019
Arlington Heights Village Board Room**

START TIME: 9:15 /**END TIME:** 11:00

ATTENDEES: *30+

AGENDA ITEMS:

- I. Welcome and Introductions - Mayor Catherine Adduci, Village of River Forest, Chair**
 - Mayor Adduci welcomed the collaborative and stressed that the success of municipal initiatives is shown through the willingness for collaboration. Mayor Adduci acknowledged those attending and noted that their willingness and spirit of service speaks volumes about a community. This was followed by acknowledgements of State Representative Michelle Moslem and the Arlington Heights Trustee. Adduci noted the significance of having elected officials involved in this work.
 - Mayor Adducci reviewed the AFCC objectives and introduced the Arlington Heights team. It was noted that the goal of this collaboration is to remove barriers for the older adult population in order to for this group to not only stay but thrive in their communities. Mayor Adduci stressed the importance of growing our regions communities in accessibility across the age groups and becoming more friendly for our senior citizens
 - Mayor Adducci reported that the AFCC via the Caucus received \$39,000 in funding from the Russell and Josephine Kott Foundation in Oak Park. This funding is important to in order to reach the collaborative goals of learning how to better work with this population by focusing on local and regional policy shifts. For example, the funding will help the Caucus develop materials, shape their research process.
 - Mayor Adducci stressed the importance of an age friendly plan that addresses the need to size down, granting persons the ability to stay in the community while adjusting for need and possible lessened Age Friendly Community.

- II. Report of Attendees**
 - Elgin
 - Age options
 - NW Housing Partnership
 - Brook partners
 - MPC
 - City of Chicago Age friendly



- Franklin Park
- Arlington Heights Senior Citizen Age
- Village of Oak Park
- Senior Center
- AARP

III. 2019 -2020 Meeting Plan for Age Friendly Communities Collaborative - Kyle Smith

- Mr. Smith suggested several activities over the next year, including a convening in the late summer or fall. It was noted that the COG Foundation provided support to support AFCC members.
- Mr. Smith reported on the proposed meeting plan, which included 5 policy areas that were identified in September's meeting: Healthy, Safety Housing, and Transportation. The AFCC will meet on each topic, to share, generate ideas and receive updates on what is learned to support the AFCC structure.
- **The AFCC Action Plan mirror the Greenest Region Compact. More information needed. Mr., Smith stressed that there is** no one size fits all plan for communities so it will adaptable.
- Mr. Smith suggested 5 initiatives for the AFCC to undertake: (1) Municipal resolution, (2) National Collaborative – This will consist of a research of best practices, where the collaborative will decide like to emulate. It will also where funding comes from (3) Work on templates (4) Develop best practices deliverable to publish (5) Regional convening in 2020.

IV. Peer Updates on Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Activities

- (Sitting next to ADOUCHE) **Arlington Heights** – The Village of Arlington Heights is working toward becoming an AFC. The Village designed a survey for those 45+ and residing in the village. The survey can be found on the Village website. There is a serious commitment from Arlington Heights village government which has helped the progress of this initiative. It cannot be modified for your village, but you can put a seal on it. We are working to find best ways to spread the word.
- **Village/City of Highland Park** – The City of HP representative reported that Highland Park recently put together an Age Friendly task force and hosted their AFC kick off meeting in January. Highland Park also participates in the program Smart 911 program, which helps save time in critical situations. This is especially helpful for those from the older adult population.
- **Glencoe – Emily** –The Glencoe representative reported that the village recently launched a Dementia Friendly initiative. The village provides training for village staff and a Dementia friends online training. We have a partnership with district 35. A pilot Memory café will be launched next summer.
- **Glenda** – Glenda reported that _____ is a Dementia Friendly Community. They are currently looking at best and worst practices in order to identify a best fit



action plan for them. They are working to set up dementia training at various organizations including libraries, KCT banks, restaurants, and education facilities. They all have a Memory Café, which offers bilingual services.

- **River Forest** – The River Forest representative reported that the village was recently accepted into the AARP network of AGE Friendly States and Communities. We also recently passed an age friendly and dementia resolution earlier this year.
- **Mayor Adouche** asked the collaborative how we want to change our policies that effect those aging in our communities and what initiatives to put in place for them to stay. Adouche noted that there is a differentiation of dementia and age friendly communities. In building a comprehensive AFC it's important to have government engagement to change dialogue and narrative around this topic.
- **Mark** noted that there are not a lot of meetings like this so he appreciates the opportunity for collaboration. Neighborhood Age Friendly Collaborative. Milken Institute – Center for the Future of Aging. Publication “Age forward cities for 2040”. “We’re the people who are responsible to help local elected officials to get better on this”
- **Glencoe – Emily** gave a personal example, noting that her mother in law is a longstanding resident in their community, someone who is aging and living in their childhood home. There are many older adults who like her mother in law have lived in their homes for decades and are unable find affordable housing, or efficient housing for the aging population. Glenco has lost a number of seniors to Highland Park. The Village hosted a senior living discussion where thy learned Pace BUS had changed their route and did not place a park bench at the new stop. The Village heard them, and wanted to ensure this older adult portion of the community that they are a priority. The village placed a bench in the appropriate area and personalized it with a design saying “we’ve got your back”.
- **Attendee (Short hair, gray cardigan) – Schaumburg** – The representative from the Schaumburg village reported that they went to the Village and requested affordable housing. IDA is currently considered the Village for funding. It’s a lot of work, but they submitted for Affordable housing and are now working with IDA.
- **Naperville-** A representative from Naperville noted that the problem is the state of Illinois is not age friendly, which is a significant issue. Weather and taxation are major barriers to going further with effective age friendly initiatives.
- **State Rep – in Response to Naperville** – Representative _____ responded back to _____ saying that the state does not tax retirement funds. There are multiple bills the state as to take into account, for example the increase funding on education. Additionally, government consolidation must be accounted for in this conversation. If we want property taxes to go down, we may see the community forced to live without the services that are funded by property taxes. What we



must do is address the not in my back yard problem of affordable housing, section 8. This will help address the property taxes.

- **MPC - Homes for Changing Region.** Elected officials need to know who's in their neighborhood, communities, to know how many people are in the community.
- **Village of Oswego** – The Representative from Oswego noted that there is a call from seniors for affordable housing. There is also a desire on the developers end to build affordable housing. How do we bridge that gap?
- **Planned Unit Development - Guy w/ blue cardigan** – An attendee from the Planned Unit Development reported that PUD is working with home builders to construct smaller homes that are affordable and have access to assisted living. The charge is \$600 v. more traditional prices that are around \$2500. They are targeting the middle market and have decided on a different concentrated approach. There are 6 duplex units developed and they are scheduled to launch in early 2020.
- **State Rep** – Representative _____ noted that the policy discussion on graduated tax model, tax modification is something that is priority for the state. The constant on going narrative and hyper comparison between other states is not healthy.
- **NW Housing Partnership** - _____ noted that the NWHP has a Home repairs modification program, but they run into issues with filling up the participants list. The problem is that only 80% of the applicants meet the area median income in order to qualify for the program.
- **Guy sitting next to Adouche - Arlington Heights-** _____ noted that in order for a community to set up an effective age friendly plan they should build a resolution. This resolution must decide if dementia friendly will be a part of the age friendly plan. A community must base their evaluation via data and focus on the best practices and age friendly action plans that they identify throughout the region and nationally.

V. **State and Federal Policy Updates – Marla Fronczack – Age Guide**

- Marla started off the presentation touching on the *Area Agency on Aging Place Act*. The Act is currently up for re-legislation and focuses on multi -generational projects including home modifications. Age Guide is looking at those communities who are addressing the needs of older adults. AG is putting together a study under the government accountability office. Area Agencies are actively working to help older adults. A gap seen is in the funding formula. It needs an emphasis on the 75+ population, especially those with limited English speaking. There has been a lot of assistance on a number of age friendly projects, for example in Naperville and Highland Park. The Older Americans Act, which established the Area on Aging Agency, funds a number of critical services for the older adult populations, including the meals on wheels' programs. There are also



various Veteran Benefits possibilities offered by AG. **It was noted that there is a tangible change when looking at single homes v. the community.**

VI. 2020 Census Update – Age Options – Jason Escholls

- Jason reported that Age Options has developed a program to bring an awareness to older adults to complete the census. Census: Review of Response Options. A gap has been identified in Census materials targeting the older adult population. Age Agencies will fill that gap by developing materials for older adults. Through the home delivered meals program, staff will bring materials encouraging this community to take the census. They also are looking to identify census ambassadors from the older adult populations. Age Options has invited funding agencies to come up with initiatives and has built a resource hub for census materials to share with older adults. There will also be a social media campaign targeting this community, ensuring they are counted.
- Kyle Smith inserted a short “promotional” on the 2020 Census Ideas Exchange.
- An attendee suggested that all information and materials are blasted out to the group.

VII. Policy Focus: Disability and Housing in Arlington Heights – David Robb – Village Disabilities’ Coordinator

- David reported that there are a significant number of persons with disabilities that experience serious barriers accessibility. Arlington Heights has developed a funding list of resources for home modifications to make this information more accessible to the group.
- Accessible housing & building is crucial to aging in place for all in this population but there is a significant gap for those experiencing higher disabilities. It should be noted that disability friendly is very similar to age friendly as with age the likelihood to experience a disability is higher.
- There are 7 requirements for disability functioning in a home. One of the problems with the Fair Housing Act is it’s in Civil Rights Language, the Housing & Development partner have worked with BOKA to change into building code language to benefit those with disabilities. Currently it is not required to adopt the fair housing act, but the building code must be adopted.
- **Visibility – applies to single family homes – definition input**
- Nora reported that Arlington Heights Senior Center is 25 years’ old and was developed under collaborative working org model. There are 8 agencies housed in the senior center. We like to think of it as a “one stop shop”, which is a true benefit as it enhances communications. The Village owns and operates the senior center.
- The village offers an alert programs, have partnered with the fire department where a lock box is provided to have easier access to house keys provides a knock



box. The Village also offers a snow shoveling program, handyman program, single family rehab programs and sends out a monthly newsletter so the entire community has access to the list of programs. These programs are free.

- The village has advanced an inclusionary zoning program. This program requires that private developers dedicate a percentage of units for affordable housing at 60% area for those with median income and below. The Village has built 100 affordable housing units in 10 years. Half of these units were devoted to disability, the other half for all who meet qualifications.
- Beth Dever reported on the CAPABLE program (Community Aging in Place Advancing Living for Elders). CAPABLE is a five-month controlled program delivered at home to community dwelling older adults to decrease fall risk, improve safe mobility, and improve ability to safely accomplish daily functional tasks. CAPABLE saves over \$11,000 a year for patients. Brick Partners has developed a proposal which includes a number of partners including Age Options.
- Robyn Sandys reported that North West Housing Partnership has served 1500 people in the handyman program. CAPABLE. NWHP started with an online training from Johns Hopkins, marketing started with collaborative members, 26 people enrolled in the program for Dec 2020. The goal is to reach 40 clients. There is a pre-application process and major qualifier's. The program will not accept those who are homebound. NHHP want's people who can get around on their own. The materials will be paid for through grant funds and those materials will be sent to the client's homes. The 2nd visit a nurse will come by the home to assess, after that a nurse may come up to 4 times, while occupational therapists may come up to 6 times. It was noted that 90% of clients get are receiving service for free.
- **Attendee next to Adouche** - Collaborative member referenced the opportunity in house sharing. Has NWHP looked into house sharing? It potentially aids in the loneliness faced by the older adult population.
- **Attendee** - Collaborative member referenced the use of a house sharing app for older adults. It was noted that the Center of Concern has been a great resource for families and the senior community. Through their program they connect individuals through an application and interview screening.
<https://centerofconcern.org/home-sharing/>
- **Marla Fronczack** Reported that there is state funding to support municipalities in these efforts. Local governments should also look into assisted adapted devices and quality of life funding. There is an opportunity here until June 30th. It was also encouraged that intergenerational housing be incorporated into an AFC plan, there are many benefits.
- **Mt Prospect** – Arguilles Consuelo reported that the Village has a significant aging population, and look forward to working with this group to get generate best ways to make our area age friendly.



- The Arlington Heights representative reported that for community members knowing someone in their personal lives who has housing difficulties lead to a tip in the community, transferring for a majority opposition to a majority being a supporter of public housing.
- The Highland Park Representative reported that the Village also has an affordable housing ordinance and it includes height restrictions.
- **The Community Partners for Affordable Housing** reported that they helped highland Park to configure ordinances and different sizes and put in factors for cost, construction costs, et. Turned out there wasn't a large difference in the return for developers. There was an acceptable rate of return regardless of public housing units. There are problems being caused from no affordable housing, which is seen in Naperville. The major issue is young mobile can't move in and older adults can't move out.

Closing

Next Quarterly Meeting : March 5, 2020