

## **Burlington Aging Council**

### **Meeting 10/09/2024 MINUTES**

#### **Meeting summary for Partial BAC and Councilor Carpenter (10/09/2024)**

**Quick recap:** The council members were advised to attend relevant committee meetings to introduce Age Strong Burlington concepts and discuss overlaps with the missions of the departments, with a focus on keeping the older adult audience in mind. The importance of engaging with city commissions and departments to achieve tangible results was emphasized, with a need for communication and collaboration with city departments to address aging challenges. The challenges of staffing and funding within the city were discussed, with a proposal for a strategic approach to resource allocation. While there might be a need for a designated staff to lead work addressing the needs of older adults within the city, the BAC should keep in mind the serious resource constraints faced by the City and seek alternate solutions by working with current department staffing and identifying where actions could be achieved in collaboration with current City department work.

#### **Next steps**

- Brian Pine to schedule a meeting with Mayor to discuss the Aging Council's plan before presenting to City Council. Other BAC members indicated interest in attending – AV, SS, RN and KSP
- Aging Council to reach out to the various City committees and commissions over the next 3-4 months to present their plan and discuss how it relates to each department's work and identify common goals/actions areas.
- Brian Pine to work on crafting resolution clauses for City Council presentation, including follow-up expectations.
- BP to connect with Superintendent Rogers to invite to BAC meeting and to review plan and understand crossover with BPRW CORE Adult programming.

#### **Summary**

#### **Council Committee Attendance and Collaboration Strategies**

Clr Carpenter recommended that the council members attend relevant council committee meetings to introduce the concepts of Age Strong Burlington and discuss overlaps with the departments and send the message to Depts that they need to think of older adults when decision making and planning. She suggested inviting the BAC members to provide updates on their work to her, keeping the city council informed about their progress. Clr Carpenter also suggested that the council members should approach almost every committee, with a similar aim of raising the Age Strong Plan and highlighting needs and planning for older adults.

### **Improving Engagement With City Commissions and Departments**

Clr Carpenter emphasized the importance of engaging with city commissions and departments to achieve tangible results. She suggested that the Council should seek input via survey on how they program for and reach out to older adults – for example BPRW and CORE adult programming. Brian Pine will connect with BPRW to join their Council meeting to provide more information on the core program.

### **Discussing Older Adults in City Initiatives**

Members discussed the importance of considering older adults in city initiatives and the need for community input sessions. They agreed on the necessity of creating a core of people willing to advocate for older adults and the importance of maintaining an information loop with the city council. The need for a follow-up plan to ensure older adults are not forgotten was emphasized – this could be integrated with the Priority Actions sheet suggested by Glenn.

### **Addressing City Staffing, Funding, and Resource Allocation**

Clr Carpenter discussed the challenges of staffing and funding within the city, emphasizing the need for a strategic approach to resource allocation. She suggested that the council could bring back milestones and activities to keep the council informed and proposed a meeting with the mayor to discuss these issues. Kelly expressed concerns about the lack of a designated leader for addressing the needs of older adults within the city, which she believed would hinder the attraction of outside funding and coordination. Others acknowledged these concerns, but also highlighted the fiscal realities of the city and the need for departments to prioritize their own work. Suggestion to coordinate with Grant in CTO – for information on grants to support the work

**Attendance:** Clr Carpenter, Chair Brian Pine, Staff Marcella Gange, Members: SS – BarbaraSD – KellySP – RickN – MollyD - AndreaV