

Senior Housing Work Group
City of Oneonta Housing Commission
6 December 2022 Meeting
Draft Meeting Notes

Present: Nicole Blanchard, Bob Brzozowski, Peter Friedman, Andrea Ronovech

Absent: Angie Eichler, Ellen Fallin, Rachel Jessup, Tamie Reed

The meeting began at 6:05 PM.

Nicole distributed the November meeting notes, the meeting's agenda, and her draft of the Focus Group Questions.

The November meeting notes were reviewed and accepted without changes.

Bob reported that the Housing Commission approved the concept of having a focus group. Also, the Commission continues to look at methods of data sharing with a website (AllOneonta.org) in the works), plus Google Docs. Nicole suggested that OneNote, a Microsoft product, should be looked into, having advantages over Google Docs.

We accepted Nicole's Focus Group Questions DraftV1 without revisions. In the discussion that followed we talked about how to distribute the Focus Group Questions (FGQ) in the period leading up to the in-person Focus Group meeting. Ideas for distribution included an online FGQ, email messages with links to the online FGQ; having copies of the FGQ available at Catholic Charities, the OFA offices at Elm Park Methodist Church, and possibly other sites; and sending the FGQ by USPS, if there's money available. Andrea suggested a media release to let folks know of the initiative and the options. Nicole will follow up with Tamie about whether the Office on Aging's mailing list can be utilized.

We discussed having the in-person Focus Group meeting at Elm Park Methodist Church in early February.

Andrea brought up the new Chestnut Street Estates apartments in the former Chestnut Street School as a new option for seniors, and Peter mentioned the talk of plans for the former St. Mary's School on Walnut Street

Nicole suggested inviting a staff person from Catholic Charities' Otsego County office to our January meeting, as well as one or two Bassett interns who are PHD candidates in Public Health.

Nicole suggested that we look into grants that may be available for senior housing initiatives. Bob said that the Housing Commission will need to approve projects, which, if approved, would be forwarded to the Common Council and City Hall staff for action.

Bob said that Tamie had asked him to serve on the Advisory Council of OFA, and he accepted. He said that Tamie may still be looking for another City of Oneonta representative, one who lives in Wards 5 or 6.

Given the issues with entry to City Hall at 6 PM and to Tuesdays being busy days, we decided to schedule our next meeting for Thursday January 5 at 6:30 PM. Nicole will check with the City Clerk's office for availability. Peter has offered his home if there's no availability.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Meeting notes taken by Bob.