

Libbey Tucker

From: James Mello
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 3:13 PM
To: Libbey Tucker
Subject: Summary Notes for May Older Adult Task Force Meeting

Categories: Follow Up

Libbey-

Per our discussion, please see my notes from yesterday below.

- Everyone was impressed by the Senior Samplers success, but there were mixed feelings, or at least hesitation, about expanding its scope. The food stations are far and away the most popular, but space is limited, as it is for all vendors here at City Hall. Suggestions were made about alternate venues and increasing the size of the event, but it was noted that this would simply duplicate existing events (like the West News Expo and others) and while might be well attended, wouldn't necessarily be presenting any new resources or services to the community that aren't already brought forward at these other events. Moreover, we would have to use an outside venue which would increase costs, staff time, etc – again, for what is ultimately a redundant event. Taking this input, they will all think it over and renew the discussion next meeting.
- We reviewed the survey results and the committee was enthusiastic about the responses – they felt it was a great starting point to explore the Senior Smart series planning from.
- Given how popular food is at senior events, and that demonstrations were the most requested Senior Smart event category, the committee suggested that a cooking demonstration might be a good idea. More specific subjects like “Cooking for 1 or 2” “Cooking on a budget” or how to make multiple meals with less effort (ex: making a roast and using it in 4 different meals). Venue was also discussed, as using City Hall may or may not be a good fit for this type of demonstration. I had thought that doing something in conjunction with the Mall might be a good idea to help increase traffic there, or perhaps in conjunction with a restaurant. It was also recommended that a small fee be charged (perhaps \$5) as a way to make sure those signing up actually planned to attend and as a way to cover any costs that might occur from the demonstration. Also, a restaurant might be interested in simply providing a lunch for \$5 in conjunction with a cooking demonstration.
- A History speaker was also a popular idea – this year in particular, with the ongoing 250th Anniversary events, it might be particularly easy to secure a topical, A Grade speaker.
- An App class was also proposed based on the high level of tech interest. A side discussion about getting students involved as volunteers turned into the potential for students to teach seniors about technology one on one... Partnering with the Library to use their computers/space might be a great synergy to unify the community and accomplish the seminar goals.
- There was also talk about looking into opportunities with the St. Louis Symphony – according to Bonnie they have certain volunteer requirements for senior programs so that might be another A Grade opportunity to explore.
- Other discussions about hard to reach seniors occurred. Apparently there used to be a mass-conference calling system where volunteers would mass call a group of homebound seniors for some group activity, like Bingo.

Bonnie used to participate but it fell by the wayside years ago... Might be an interesting prospect to resume it again.

- I will look into a full calendar of events for perspective dates for the above seminars in the fall – it was requested to avoid Jewish holidays and a handful of other events which I have a list of.

Let me know if you have any questions!

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