



STAFF MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting – June 14, 2021

Date: June 10, 2021

To: Matthew H. Greeson, City Manager

From: Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: **Age Friendly Initiative Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Council will be briefed on the Age Friendly Initiative and creation of the Steering Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an update only; no action is requested at this time.

BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION

In December 2019, Worthington committed to creating an Age Friendly Community when Council approved a resolution to join AARP's Network of Age Friendly Communities and convened the Age Friendly Initiative (AFI) to promote successful aging and improve the quality of life for all ages. In December 2020, a 9-member Planning Committee comprised of stakeholders, city staff, and older adults was formed to help launch the Initiative. As a Community Initiative, it was clear that the planning committee would need to become more of a steering committee by enlisting additional individuals who are interested in or concerned about the outcome of the work, can help with aspects of the livability project, have connections to needed resources, and/or can share expert advice.

As a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, we have access to a well-tested and resourced structure that can help guide us through the process entailed in becoming an age-friendly community. AARP's *8 Domains of Livability*, community features that impact the well-being of older adults and help make communities more livable for

people of all ages, provide a great structure in understanding and enhancing the age friendliness of a community including:

- Making outdoor spaces and buildings more friendly to families, older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Increasing the accessibility and affordability of transportation and housing.
- Increasing access and opportunities for social participation and inclusion through programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity.
- Supporting work and volunteer opportunities.
- Providing access to communication and information, and
- Supporting the ability to age in place through community support and services for older adults.

Steering Committee members are expected to share a passion and vision for the AFI; bring different skills, experiences, contacts, and interest to the work; share expertise or identify others who are subject matter experts as needed; and be willing and able to put in the time to see the AFI through at least the first year.

The Steering Committee will:

- Develop mission, vision, and goals for the AFI
- Develop a communications strategy ensuring ongoing communications with the community
- Develop a plan for the Community Assessment: what, who, how, when
- Develop a plan for data analysis and compilation
- Draft an Action Plan
- Review implementation strategies and assign to parties
- Ensure AFI work is connected with the Vision Worthington Plan
- Monitor ongoing progress of the Initiative
- Participate in preparation and oversight of a project budget
- Identify and/or assist in securing resources such as potential grant funds.

As the Action Plan is put together and implementation strategies are identified, those that apply to City Staff or resources will be brought back to Council with recommendations for approval.