

Date: March 1, 2017

To: Lifelong Housing Working Group

From: Beth Barham, League of Women Voters
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RE: Talking Points for Outreach to Potential Members

Background: Rogue Valley, Oregon pioneered the first Lifelong Housing Certification program in the country. Visit [http://rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=SDS Lifelong Housing](http://rvcog.org/mn.asp?pg=SDS_Lifelong_Housing) and download the following for review:

- Lifelong Housing Certification Brochure
- Accessibility Features Checklist
- Creating Your Own Lifelong Housing Certification Project: Tips for Communities

Advantages of the LLH certification include:

- Increasing the number of homes in Fayetteville, AR where people can “age in place.”
- These homes may be new build or remodels and the adaptations are not only beneficial for older adults. The adaptations are beneficial for anyone with disabilities (temporary or permanent). The adaptations do not need to look clinical or industrial and families can also benefit from the subtle changes (e.g. older or disabled visitors; young families with strollers, etc.).
- The cost of the adaptations is very minimal for a new home build but adds to the value and may make the homes more marketable.
- The LLH certification enhances the age-friendliness of Fayetteville and stresses the importance of inclusion of everyone in our city.

The League of Women Voters Washington County, AR, with co-sponsors Age Friendly Fayetteville, AARP AR and the City of Fayetteville, held a panel on Lifelong Housing on February 16, 2017. You can find more information and useful links related to this program, including a link to watch a video recording of the panel, here: <http://www.lwvarwc.org/> (check under Links/Resources for Programs, where a resource page should be available after March 4, 2017).

A LLH Working Group Kick-Off meeting was held February 17, 2017, where we determined:

- The LLH Working Group would like to establish a LLH program in Fayetteville similar to the one in Rogue Valley. We further agreed to accept the Rogue Valley checklist as it is for now, without modification, as the basis for our initial efforts.
- We need to review the staffing and other costs associated with a program, and reach a consensus on how and where to implement it. Should it be located within the City offices, or with one or more outside organizations in the community? How can we fund it sustainably?

- We need to involve a wide number of community members to discuss how best to carry this out, and how to reach out to the wider community about the program if/when we are able to launch it. To that end, attendees at the Kick-Off meeting brainstormed and developed a list of organizations we could identify that should be contacted. Members volunteered to do outreach to them. Those who agree to participate would be asked to:
 - Attend monthly or bi-monthly meetings to add your expertise to this project
 - Review periodic emails about the progress the LLH working group has made
 - Volunteer for specific activities that are of interest to you and of need for the project
 - Advocate for the implementation of the LLH certification in Fayetteville by spreading the word to those in your networks

Next steps: we plan to meet a second time in April (time/place to be announced). We would like to have your participation at that meeting. Please come to this meeting to determine if you are interested in participating in the work group for this project.

If you are willing to take part, please email Beth Barham at beth.barham5@gmail.com and she will add you to the group list.

Thank you!