

**Age Friendly Louisville**  
**Outdoor Enhancement Workgroup**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 24th, 2026**  
**In Person**

**Members Present**

Becky Peak, Tyler Wood, Kristi King, Teran Herthel, Eric Guvenich, Beth Mathis, Greg Willet, Tewsdaay Babicka, Geoff Wohl, Josie Raymond, Sophia Banks\*.

\*Notetaker

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:00PM by Becky.**
- II. SUMMARY**

The meeting focused on planning the next cleanup event and discussing findings from a recent walk audit in District 10 and discussing findings with CW Raymond and council team. The group debated whether to hold the cleanup on a Saturday or Tuesday, with concerns about scheduling around Derby week. They explored potential locations, including G.G. Moore Park and Camp Zachary Taylor Memorial Park, with particular interest in doing a cleanup at a park before its May 23rd grand opening. The team reviewed walk audit findings from Poplar Level Road, highlighting accessibility issues including uneven sidewalks, steep inclines, missing crosswalks, and inadequate bus stop facilities. Councilwoman Raymond expressed appreciation for the audit findings and mentioned that road paving was scheduled for late June. The group also discussed traffic safety concerns and potential traffic calming measures in the area.

**III. NEXT STEPS**

- a. Reach out to various groups and locations to determine possible dates and locations for the next cleanup, and communicate options via email to the group.
- b. Check with Metro Parks to see if they are planning a major cleanup at Camp Zachary Taylor Memorial Park before the group decides to conduct their own cleanup there. Reach out to Kelly Cox (Becky).
- c. Continue to reach out to potential park locations and check on their availability and current cleanup plans, and coordinate with Metro Parks as needed.
- d. Share the link to the Age-Friendly and Dementia Friendly Massachusetts toolkit with the group in the meeting minutes email (Sophia)
- e. Consider integrating dementia-friendly principles into future work.
- f. Attempt to follow up with Iroquois Amphitheater contacts (including Wimmer folks and possibly Nathan Maiwald) to schedule a follow-up meeting regarding accessibility and potential walk audit.
- g. Accumulate and document walk audit findings from Poplar Level Road area and share with Councilwoman Raymond and relevant city/transportation contacts.
- h. Invite Councilwoman Raymond (and the rest of the group) to the upcoming presentation on campus related to 4th Street walk audit activities. (Krisiti)

- i. Ensure the newsletter highlighting group activities is sent to Metro Council members and encourage them to share it further (Sophia)

#### **IV. SPRING COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENT - Date TBD**

- a. The group discussed planning an April cleanup event, but due to lack of feedback and scheduling conflicts around Derby weekend, they decided to postpone it. The team considered moving the cleanup to an alternative date between April and May meetings, but a Saturday was tried before. The group also discussed potential locations for future cleanups, with suggestions including G.G. Moore Park and areas around Buena Vida (suggested by Mike and Lucinda), though no final decisions were made. Becky highlighted that more potential locations have to be researched and options will be communicated via email.
- b. The group discussed that cleaning up a park instead of a street might be a safe activity. Goef brought up Camp Zachary Taylor Memorial Park as their next opportunity, focusing on improvements before its water park opening on May 23rd. They noted ongoing upgrades including new bleachers expected in June, new water fountains, and exterior fence work, while addressing parking concerns around the park's opening. The group discussed a clean up within the week before the May 23rd opening to avoid the expected crowd during the grand opening. However, Greg brought up to coordinate with Metro Parks & Recreation about potential cleanup activities already happening on their side.
- c. April Meeting/Cleanup Canceled: The April 28 workgroup meeting/cleanup is canceled due to Derby week activities and student finals.
- d. Action Item: Becky Peak will contact Metro Parks (Kelly Cox) to confirm their cleanup plans and avoid duplication.

#### **V. Engaged Scholarship Symposium & Promoting AFL at Metro Council**

- a. Kristi reported on the Engaged Scholarship Symposium, where the team presented on Age-Friendly Louisville Outdoor Enhancement walk audits, highlighting student experiences and scholarly outputs including a peer-reviewed paper in progress and several publications and presentations, which create opportunities for further connection with students and faculty from urban planning and sustainability programs at UofL.
- b. Outcome: Created new connections with UofL urban planning faculty (Dr. Jisan Oh, Dr. Vestavar) and generated scholarly output (peer-reviewed paper in review).
- c. Kristi shared that she had created a LinkedIn post using event photos and distributed it to 30 people including UofL administrators to showcase their community work. See the LinkedIn Post here: [2026 Engaged Scholarship Symposium](#)
- d. The group agreed to share their newsletter with Metro Council members to increase awareness of their Age-Friendly Louisville initiatives, and discussed plans for a potential presentation to Metro Council.

#### **VI. Poplar Level Walk Audit Findings: Discussion with CW Josie Raymond**

- a. The group reviewed walk audit findings around Poplar Level Road, noting accessibility and pedestrian safety concerns.

- b. Participants also discussed speeding, lack of sidewalks, and unsafe crossings, and explored solutions such as pedestrian islands and improved crosswalks. Next steps include gathering additional input and sharing findings with stakeholders.
- c. Councilwoman Raymond thanked participants and acknowledged the challenges, and let the group know that paving is scheduled for the end of June, potentially addressing some issues.
- d. She will bring findings to the city's Student Department of Transportation. The ongoing speeding task force as a relevant initiative was also mentioned.

**Key Issues Identified:**

- a. Accessibility Barriers: Uneven pavement and potholes at Hess Ln crossing.
- b. CVS walking path ends abruptly with a severe drop-off, blocking access for mobility devices.
- c. Missing sidewalk sections (unrepaired utility cut).
- d. Pedestrian Safety Hazards: No pedestrian crossing at the Dreams of Wings intersection, forcing disabled clients into traffic.
- e. Narrow, unprotected walking space alongside high-speed traffic (35–45 mph).
- f. Bus stop near the hospital lacks a shelter or seating.

**VII. OTHER UPDATES**

- a. Becky let the group know that she submitted an application for the AARP Community Challenge Grant for the beautification project results would not be announced until mid to late May.
- b. Beth shared feedback from a recent "State of Downtown" event featuring urban planner Jeff Speck, where discussions covered downtown safety improvements and parking challenges, though accessibility concerns were noted regarding downtown's wheelchair-friendly infrastructure. The discussion focused on accessibility challenges related to parking and traffic changes near a school. Greg highlighted concerns about how new traffic measures affect parents with young children, particularly those with mobility impairments or strollers, who face difficulties with current parking and sidewalk arrangements. They suggested that zoning requirements should include notification to local residents, businesses, and schools about such changes, and emphasized the need for better community involvement in planning decisions that affect daily transportation needs.
- c. **Dementia-Friendly State Collaboration:** Becky presented information about a potential collaboration with the Office of Dementia Services to make Kentucky a dementia-friendly state, sharing resources from Massachusetts's toolkit and suggesting ways the Outdoor Enhancement Group could incorporate dementia-friendly elements into their walk audits or other objectives in the action plan. Explore the Massachusetts Age- and Dementia Friendly Integration Toolkit that was discussed at the meeting here:  
[mass.gov/handbook/massachusetts-age-and-dementia-friendly-integration-toolkit](https://mass.gov/handbook/massachusetts-age-and-dementia-friendly-integration-toolkit)

**VIII. Community Events and Accessibility Planning**

- a. The group discussed upcoming events, including a National Poetry Month and kickoff night walk on April 1st (A poetry walk opening at Joe Crescent Park) and activities at Iroquois Amphitheater.
- b. Members expressed concerns about accessibility at the amphitheater and noted challenges in getting responses from venue management regarding potential improvements. The discussion also touched on the need for more dementia-friendly spaces, particularly in hospitals, and the importance of training for caregivers and staff in handling individuals with dementia.
- c. An upcoming Earth Fest event organized by the Office of Sustainability, which will take place on Saturday and feature 40+ community organizations, free giveaways, performances, food, and activities was highlighted. The event is being held in a previously flooded area that has been

transformed into a community space, with the Parks Alliance noting that park usage has increased by 25% since 2019 despite a flat operating budget.

- d. Upcoming Events: Earth Fest: Saturday, March 28, at Alberta Jones Park. Poetry Walk: Opening night April 1, 5:30–7:00 PM, at Joe Creason Park, self-guided poetry walk during the whole month of April.

**IX. NEXT Meeting**

The next meeting scheduled on the 4th Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> is **canceled** due to Derby Week. The clean-up events held on **Monday, May 18th** will replace the workgroup meeting.