City of Pine Island

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Cathy McLeer  
State Director  
AARP Minnesota  
1919 University Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Ms. McLeer,

On behalf of the City of Pine Island, I am pleased to offer this letter to request membership into the World Health Organization and AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. In partnership with Age-Friendly Olmsted County, Pine Island will take steps to identify and implement improvements to enhance independent living.

The City of Pine Island is actively pursuing the improvement of our community by seeking ways to meet the needs of community members through the Age-Friendly initiatives. We are currently exploring ways to be a more livable community in promoting health and wellness practices, collaborating with our local school district in a partnership between our senior residents and school age students, and creating a core team to look at improving Pine Island that includes community leadership, health care providers, first responders, and educators.

Pine Island is excited to partner with Olmsted County in moving forward to be an Age-Friendly Community. We recognize the importance of being proactive in encouraging and promoting age-friendly initiatives in our community. Planning and implementing policies to address our senior resident population is vital to making an inclusive community, while also including our younger community members in the process. Pine Island has already shown an aggressive approach to our desire to be an Age-Friendly Community in looking at the need for affordable housing, accessible transportation, welcoming public spaces, and a thriving senior center that will provide needed services. We have a foundation in place through the work of Dementia Friends and looking to ensure that our community can meet the upcoming needs of our senior citizens, while seeking projects that will benefit our whole community.

Pine Island will need the support of our partners while pursuing this designation, while challenging our community members to “step up to the plate” in making this process our own. Pine island plans to recruit community members to assist in a community assessment to identify projects. Once we identify projects, we will share them with Age-Friendly Olmsted County to have included in the work plan and we will work to complete them. We are truly excited to be a part of Olmsted County’s goal in meeting the needs of Pine Island residents and being able to say that Pine Island is an Age-Friendly Community!

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

David Friesen  
Mayor-Pine Island