



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**

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**Meeting Summary  
July 16, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Laurie Young, Cheryl Beversdorf, Valerie Crotty, Linc Cummings, Cragg Hines, Herschel Kanter, Cynthia Schneider, Duke Taylor, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Gwendolyn Beck, Carl Brooks, Jim Feaster, Sophie Shen, Martha Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Julia Chen aide to Senator Barbara Favola,

**STAFF:** Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Helen King

**GUESTS:** Gelareh Bassiry, Jose Aramayo Pefauere, Carol Burkett, Linda Kelleher, Angela Chadbourne, Cindy Miller, Jennifer Collins (OSAP), Mitch Opalski, Wendy Zenker (ANV), Erica Wood, Jim Morris

**I. Networking**

**II. Call to Order at 9:10 a.m.**

Chair Young welcomed Helen King in her new role as Management Analyst for the AAA. All in attendance introduced themselves.

**III. Overview of The Springs and APAH Properties including Supports for Older Adults –**

Roxana Hernandez, Resident Services Coordinator for APAH, provided information on The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH), including information on Gilliam Place, a new property that will have dedicated units for seniors. Ms. Hernandez stated that Venus Burgess, the Resident Services Coordinator for Senior Program, was unable to attend today but had provided information for the group. APAH properties currently house 170 seniors aged 65 years old and older. Ms. Hernandez described recent intergenerational programs, including children making and delivering Valentines, and a planned program for high school students to assist senior residents with social media. She noted that an event was being planned around fall prevention and that they were working with the Office of Emergency Management and the AAA on an emergency preparedness event. She also noted that Ms. Burgess is planning to survey all senior residents on nutrition topics such as participation in Meals on Wheels and AFAC, and the ability, especially for garden style apartment residents, to transport food into their apartment.

A discussion on the outreach and application process arose. APAH does not have a centralized application process, interested residents have to apply at each property they are interested in. APAH provides Arlington ADSD with a monthly list of vacancies. This list enables the Customer Service Center and some of the case managers to facilitate the process of connecting seniors to available apartments. Ms. Hernandez noted that the application process can take up to two weeks, depending on the availability of the required documentation.

**IV. Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**V. Chair's Report**

Laurie Young

- a. Chair Young noted that the discussion from APAH directly relates to the Age Friendly Arlington plan, noting the need for more designated and appropriate affordable housing units for seniors in Arlington.

- b. Chair Young stated she has been interviewing new commission members. She stated one name has been submitted to the County Board and a second interview is scheduled. She challenged each commissioner to aide with the recruitment of new commissioners.
- c. Chair Young noted that the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and that she is honing in on the names of the new committees. She described identifying a new structure to best move the commission forward and that chairs and committee members may change as a result. She stated everyone will have the opportunity to signup for new committess once the structure is determined.
- d. Chair Young praised the recent Salute to Centenarians, describing it as a joyful event.
- e. Chair Young reported that she attended the County Board Meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> for the discussion on changes to the real estate tax relief program. The board unanimously approved the proposed changes.

## VI. Staff Reports

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield & Helen King

- a. AAA Staff Report: Ms. King reported that the farmers market application process is underway. She noted that more than half of the applications have been submitted online. Ms. King requested commissioners email if they are interested in helping to staff the ADSD booth at the Arlington County Fair August 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. King reported that the AAA is currently working on the Area Plan with a goal to have it complete by the end of the month.
- b. ADSD Staff Report: Ms. Bah-Duckenfield announced that work continues on evaluating the the structure of the Division and the Bureau. She noted that Helen King will continue to serve as the Volunteer Guardianship Coordinator until the position is filled. She also introduced Jose Aramayo Pefauere, the new Bureau Administrative Specialist. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield described the centenarian event as a highlight to the year. She praised the space, the band and the food. She also noted that a reporter from NPR interviewed many of the centenarians, NBC4 aired a story on the event, and the Washington Post did a feature story. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield announced that the Bureau is actively recruiting 5 graduate social work interns from George Mason Univeristy for the coming year. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that she would like to see a component of staff positions dedicated to three top priorities; family caregiving, elder abuse and isolation.

Chair Young noted that at the end of the meeting, commissioners would have the opportunity to participate in Meals-on-Wheels.

## VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Budget** (Carl Brooks): Commissioner Brooks was not present. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that highlights of the FY19 budget would be presented at the next meeting.
- b. **Legislative** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the next NVAN meeting is tomorrow and the platform will be finalized. She noted the Legislative Committee will meet on August 6<sup>th</sup>. She also asked if the schedule for the Legislative Forum had been finalized, stating a preference for Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **Long Term Care Residences** (Cyndy Schneider): Commissioner Schneider reported the committee will meet Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at Cherrydale Health and Rehabilitation. The Commission is invited
- d. **Membership** (Sophie Shen): Chair Young noted that she provided an update in her remarks.
- e. **Public Information & Outreach** (Gwendolyn Beck): Jim Morris reported that the main focus of the last committee meeting was to consolidate information received at the Age Friendly Arlington workshop. There is no meeting in August, the next committee meeting will be held September 12<sup>th</sup>.

- f. **New Media/Technology** (Sophie Shen): Chair Young reported that she has posted a number of commission events on facebook and the number of followers is now around 325.
- g. **Senior Centers** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the senior center visits would begin soon. Contact him if interested in joining.
- h. **Strategic Planning** (Laurie Young): Chair Young reported that this committee is moving toward finalizing 3 projects for the Age Friendly Arlington. These projects are viewed as low-hanging fruit to provide early success and momentum to the effort.
- i. **Supportive Services and Housing** (Laurie Young): Chair Young noted that increasing affordable, intergenerational housing is part of the Age Friendly initiative. She noted the committee remains interested in receiving a presentation by the Permanent Supportive Housing Program Manager.
- j. **Transportation** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported a senior-centric tour focused on metro evacuations is being scheduled. He also reported that the committee is planning an evaluation of the effect of the I-66 tolling on surface transportation (both bus and private vehicle) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

#### VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Mr. Opalski reported that the Alexandria Commission on Aging does not meet in July or August.
- b. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Cindy Miller): Ms. Miller reported that volunteers Marilyn Martin and Doug Frost were recently awarded the Fran DeSilva award. She noted the Office of Senior Adult Programs has completed the move to Madison Manor. She also noted that the county recently awarded a new transportation contract for the 55+ program. She reported that as part of Senior Center Month, the 55+ program is planning a BBQ Bash on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **Arlington Neighborhood Village** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker reported that Arlington Neighborhood Village will join commission staff at the Arlington County Fair. She noted that many ANV events are on hiatus for August and will resume in September. Ms. Burkett added that the health and wellness committee at ANV is developing a strategy for keeping frail members a part of the “family”. She asked about the possibility of receiving information when a member is referred for services. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that a departmental-wide consent to share information is being developed that will allow for sharing of information on mutual clients.
- d. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms Burkett reported that CIAC has received another grant to continue training. The coalition will meet again in September.
- e. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that council met last week in Richmond. She noted a large part of the meeting was devoted to caregivers and reported that the Virginia Family Caregiver Stakeholders recently released some valuable data. Ms. Wood reported that one recommendation, also on the NVAN platform, is to provide respite services for family caregivers. She noted the Council is beginning work on the next 4-year plan. Community Conversations will be part of the plan development, the date for the Northern Virginia session is TBD.
- f. **Community Development Citizens Advisory Council** (Linc Cummings): Mr. Cummings reported that a workshop for grant applicants is scheduled for next Tuesday at the Central Library.
- g. **Emergency Planning Advisory Commission** (Valerie Crotty): Commissioner Crotty noted that Sarah Kessler is moving out of the area. Ms. Crotty noted that Emergency Planning Commission planned to have Emergency Preparedness for Seniors information at the County Fair.

- h. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): No report
- i. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday and the topic is Senior Scams.
- j. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the transit tours are focused on ADA Compliance of bus stops, noting many are not compliant.
- k. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Sara Pappas): No report

**IX. Old Business**

Commissioner Crotty commented on the changes to the Transportation Safety Concerns letter currently under review. She noted more edits are needed, that the letter should focus on what seniors need to know and should include a request to have the County Board address the concerns with WMATA Management.

A question was asked about the receipt of a response to the letter addressing concerns about handicapped parking being blocked for training. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield will send a copy of the response to the Commission.

**X. New Business**

**XI. Announcements and Public Comment**

- a. Jim Morris shared that Arlington ranks #2 in the AARP Most Livable Small Cities
- b. No meeting in August

**XII. Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.**

**No Meeting in August:**  
**Next Meeting: Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at DHS**