



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS  
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**Meeting Summary  
October 15, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Jim Feaster, Gwendolyn Beck, Cheryl Beversdorf, Martha Wilson, Julia Chen aide to Senator Barbara Favola, Duke Taylor, Cragg Hines, Herschel Kanter, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Carl Brooks, Valerie Crotty, Linc Cummings,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**GUESTS:** Laurie Young, Mitch Opalski, Erica Wood, Rita Wong, Cynthia Davis, Ahmad Abumraighe

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**I. Networking**

**II. Call to Order at 9:07 a.m.**

All in attendance introduced themselves. Chair Feaster introduced the guest speaker, Irena Lazic

**III. Arlington's Plan for Our Place and Spaces (POPS) and Updates to the Public Spaces**

**Master Plan** – Irena Lazic, Principal Planner for Arlington County, presented an overview of the Public Spaces Master Plan, including the history of the plan and the recent efforts to update it. She noted that the most recent plan is dated 2005 and a process to update the plan is underway. A draft master plan was released in July 2017 and her office has received feedback from a variety of forums. The final draft is scheduled to be released later this week. The final draft will be online for public comment through the end of November. The goal is to make any additional updates with a goal of obtaining County Board approval in February or March of 2019.

Ms. Lazic responded to multiple questions from the Commissioners and guests in attendance. She noted the plan includes cost estimates, tentative timeframes and responsible parties since not all the projects are the responsibility of the County to implement. Ms. Lazic remarked that she is giving the presentation to many of the Commissions and that she will send the link to the document once it is released. She encouraged everyone to review the plan and provide comment.

**IV. Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**V. Chair's Report**

Jim Feaster

- a. Chair Feaster noted the upcoming listening session to provide input to the State Plan for Aging Services. The session is scheduled for Monday, October 22 in Alexandria.
- b. Chair Feaster noted the Legislative Forum us scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at Fairlington Community Center.
- c. Chair Feaster noted that in addition to the radio program, Aging Matters now has a video program that airs on Sundays at 5:30.
- d. Chair Feaster reported that Joan McDermott send a report for the Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) (*report provided in the Liaison report section*).

## VI. Staff Reports

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield & Helen King

- a. **ADSD Staff Report:** Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that Ms. Coates is attending the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) in Virginia Beach. She noted that today marks the beginning of Medicare Open Enrollment season and that the Medicaid Expansion begins January 1. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield thanked the group for their advocacy for Medicaid expansion and reported that January 1, 2019 is the start date for the expansion. Commissioner Beversdorf added that Carma Ryan and Joe Schwartz were guests on Aging Matters on Oct 2. She reported it was a good show and has over 500 reaches and 5 shares. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that Adult Services and Adult Protective Services were live on Peer Place as of October 1. She reported that the County Fiscal Year Budget Forecasts were bleak and the staff is putting together plans. The County will hold a virtual town hall on the 2020 budget Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reminded the group about the upcoming listening session for the Virginia 4-year State Plan on Aging that will be held Monday, October 22 in Alexandria. She encouraged commissioners to attend and to register to speak to ensure Arlington's input on what matters most and what needs to be considered is represented.
- b. **AAA Staff Report:** Ms. King reported that the Legislative Forum is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Fairlington Community Center. Ms. King noted that the next Commission Meeting will be a special session. The meeting will be held from 10-2 at the Fairlington Community Center as a follow-up meeting to the June 5<sup>th</sup> session. Laurie Young added that the session will be guided by the AARP staff that facilitated the June 5<sup>th</sup> session and will assist each of the new committees with charting a plan to identify low-hanging fruit. She noted lunch will be provided. Chair Feaster reported that the chairs for the new committees had been identified with the exception of a co-chair for the Housing and Community Supports Committee.

## VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Budget** (Carl Brooks): No report.
- b. **Legislative** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the committee held meetings with Representatives Lopez, Sullivan and Howell to encourage support for the Assisted Living generators. She reported that more letters of support are needed for this issue – both group and individual.
- c. **Long Term Care Residences** (Cyndy Schneider): Commissioner Schneider reported the committee met Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and received a presentation from Adult Protective Services. She noted that the Voting registrar's office does a good job of reaching out to residents in long-term care facilities. Commissioner Schneider reported a developer is at the beginning stages of building an assisted living in North Arlington. She reported the facility will have 184 beds with 45 being dedicated to memory care. She noted the site will need to be rezoned and that it is important for the Commission to be involved early.
- d. **Membership** (Sophie Shen): Commissioner Shen reported the membership committee is currently interviewing a new Commission member.
- e. **Nominating** (Cragg Hines): No report.
- f. **Public Information & Outreach** (Gwendolyn Beck): Commissioner Beck reported that the Committee met last week and is considering changing the day and time for the committee meeting.
- g. **New Media/Technology** (Sophie Shen): No report.
- h. **Senior Centers** (Linc Cummings): No report.
- i. **Strategic Planning** (Jim Feaster): No report
- j. **Supportive Services and Housing** (Laurie Young): Chair Young reported that the committee did not meet in August.

- k. **Transportation** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported that the transportation committee met September 18<sup>th</sup> and heard a presentation about the scooter pilot.

#### VIII. **Liaison Reports**

- a. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Mr. Opalski reported that the Alexandria Commission met last week at Brandywine, one of 2 new assisted living facilities in Alexandria. He reported the main speaker was Sandy Markham from the National Association of Area Administrators on Aging (N4A) and the topic was dementia friendly communities.
- b. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Cindy Miller): No report.
- c. **Arlington Neighborhood Village** (Wendy Zenker): No report.
- d. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Chair Feaster provided the report sent by Ms. McDermott. The Coalition met October 1. The \$10K grant from VCU was fully funded and will allow the coalition to hold 4 additional workshops.
- e. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that the regional listening session on the 2019-2023 plan will be held on October 22 from 10-12 in the Alexandria City Council Room. She urged everyone to attend and to consider speaking. She noted the session in Richmond was not as well attended and the Council hoped.
- f. **Community Development Citizens Advisory Council** (Linc Cummings): No report.
- g. **Emergency Planning Advisory Commission** (Valerie Crotty): No report.
- h. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Sara Pappas): Mr. Abumraighe reported that the Alliance provided 10 presentations at senior centers during falls prevention month. He noted the Alliance is working to build academic and community partners.
- i. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the committee received a presentation from the individual in charge of construction site transportation plans that construction companies are required to create to define alternate routes for pedestrians and bicyclists. He noted that staff welcome reports of violations. Chair Feaster reported on the recent Wheelchair Outing and noted he learned first hand the challenges of attempting to navigate the sidewalks of Arlington in a wheelchair. He hopes to organize an outing for the Commission.
- j. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee met Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and Medicaid Expansion was the topic. She reported that the next meeting will be held November 16<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be Medicare.
- k. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): No report

#### IX. **Old Business**

#### X. **New Business**

Chair Feaster reported that he will meet with Ms. Coates and Ms. King to revise the Charter and By-Laws of the Commission to reflect the new committee structure.

#### XI. **Announcements and Public Comment**

A presentation of the 5 Pillars of Brain Health will be held at the Central Library on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Citizen, Aleksandr Belinskiy, reported a concern to the Commission that as part of the upcoming renovation of The Carlin that the property manager will obtain approval to change the age restriction from a 62+ community to a 55+ community. He noted the concern that this change will create competition for the apartments and further disadvantage lower income older Arlingtonians.

#### XII. **Adjournment at 10:57 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: SPECIAL EVENT: Age Friendly Planning Session.  
November 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 10am-2pm at  
Fairlington Community Center  
3308 S. Stafford St, Arlington, VA 22206**