



**ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**  
c/o Agency on Aging, DHS  
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## **Meeting Summary December 17, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Valerie Crotty, Linc Cummings, Cragg Hines, Herschel Kanter, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Gwendolyn Sutton, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Senator Barbara Favola, Duke Taylor, Martha Wilson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Rachel Coates, Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Jim Baker, Helen King

**GUESTS:** Laurie Young, Mitch Opalski, Erica Wood, Cynthia Davis, Linda Kelleher, Claire Jacobsen, Jim Morris, Jennifer Collins, Joan McDermott, Tad Lunger, Robin Edwards, Angela Chadbourne, Anne Hermann, Wendy Zenker, Carlo Saavedra, Andrea Walker, Carol Paquette, Alex Belinsky

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### **I. Networking**

#### **II. Call to Order at 9:05 a.m.**

All in attendance introduced themselves. Commissioner Snyder introduced the first speaker, Jay Hicks from Artis Senior Living.

- III. Assisted Living in Arlington –** Mr. Jay Hicks, Senior Vice President of Artis Senior Living, presented the current proposal for a new assisted living facility on Old Lee Hwy. Artis Senior Living currently owns and operates 14 communities, most of which specialize in memory care and dementia. The facility they are proposing for Arlington is a 6-story building with 95 assisted living units (studio, 1 bed or 2 bed), and 80 memory care units (studio). Artis has submitted the rezoning application to Arlington County. The current schedule slates construction to start in the summer of 2020 for occupancy beginning in the winter of 2021. Mr. Hicks noted that the Artis business model is to develop entirely private pay units but he committed to talking to the commission regarding set asides for affordable units.

**Arlington's Bicycle Master Plan –** Mr. Ritch Viola, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, presented an update on the bike element of the Master Transportation Plan. He reported that the plan was last updated in 2008 and much has changed, including the addition of Capital Bike Share, dockless bikes and scooters. In the update process, the team learned that people would like to bike more but they feel unsafe. Part of the plan focuses on updating bike infrastructure including more trails and protected bike lanes. The plan can be found on the Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element Working Group website. Public comment is being sought via open houses in January or by an online feedback form.

### **IV. Chair's Report**

Jim Feaster

- a. Chair Feaster read a letter of thanks from Virginia Hospital Center for the Commission's support of their expansion plan.
- b. Chair Feaster noted that he is planning to prepare the annual report. He asked that committee chairs send activities and accomplishments to Rachel.
- c. Chair Feaster outlined the timeline for the Age Friendly Arlington initiative. He noted that the idea is not for the Commission to invent new programs, that committees should be focused on how we can monitor some of the initiatives underway across the county. Chair Feaster noted that listening sessions are in the process of being planned, AARP will

conduct a survey of members, and we are planning posters in key public spaces to collect input. Chair Feaster noted we will need volunteers to help collect the input from the posters.

- d. Chair Feaster reported Vice-Chair Brooks will preside over the January meeting.

#### V. **Approval of October Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the October 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

#### VI. **Staff Reports**

Rachel Coates & Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

- a. **AAA Staff Report:** Ms. Coates thanked the Commission for a robust year. She provided highlights from 2018 that included changes the commission structure as well as within the staff support. Ms. Coates reported that the Social 60+ Café numbers continue to increase, and that the Community Living Program will have 2 vendors next year. She also noted that Meals-on-Wheels is in great need of volunteer drivers. Ms. Coates noted that the common themes for FY 2019 priorities include equity and reducing social isolation.
- b. **ADSD Staff Report:** Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that the Aging and Disability Services Division is planning an open house for January. It has been scheduled to coincide with the commission meeting and she invited all commissioners to plan to come to the open house after the meeting. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that Goodwin House is looking to create cross-jurisdictional dementia friendly communities. She also reported that the 2020 census is coming soon and data will inform service delivery.

#### VII. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the committee did not meet last month. He noted that all committee chairs are members of the executive committee.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider): Commissioner Schneider reported that the October meeting was postponed to early November and the committee met with Maureen Markham, a principal planner with CPHD, to discuss the concerns Mr. Belinsky raised at the October commission meeting regarding age eligibility at the Carlin. The result of the discussion is that the Carlin is in compliance with their contract and therefore no action needs to be taken. The committee's November meeting focused primarily on the zoning issue for the Artis Assisted Living facility being planned. She noted the committee will be following this closely and is aiming to have dedicated affordable residences. Commissioner Schneider also noted that the Long Term Residences, which is now part of this committee, met with the staff at Manor Care.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee met in November and continued discussion on the NVAN platform.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that this committee will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 9am beginning January 2.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Gwendolyn Sutton): Commissioner Sutton reported that the Committee will be moving their meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 2 pm starting in February. She noted that the committee is exploring a Senior Ambassador Program and is currently working on compiling a list of community groups, etc. to reach out to for listening sessions.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): No report.

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

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Ms. Young reported that the Age-Friendly Arlington steering committee met to discuss the timeline for the 2-year plan creation timeframe. AARP will provide posters as part of the community outreach program and these will be placed in libraries, community centers, etc. to promote the initiative and

collect data. AARP will conduct a survey and we are talking to them about expanding it beyond AARP members. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to support the committees and move the work along. They will meet next on January 11<sup>th</sup>

- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria Commission met last week. He noted that Alexandria is about a year ahead of us in the Age-Friendly planning process and that they are sharing their experiences.
- c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Ms. Walker reported that the Agency on Aging had completed the monitoring visits at the Social 60+ Café's. She reported that the annual 55+ New Year's Eve party will be at the Celtic Café.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker reported that the ANV board approved the 2019 budget. The focus for 2019 includes increasing membership and volunteer engagement. She also noted that ANV will be participating in the MLK Day of Service in January.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott reported that CIAC met a couple weeks ago. She noted that 2 workshops are scheduled for early 2019: January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Langston-Brown and March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Central Library. Each workshop is preceded by a meeting one week before so that participants have the information they need for the workshop.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Chair Feaster reported that the Governor's budget is due to be released tomorrow.
- g. **Community Development Citizens Advisory Council** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that this group solicits proposals and recommends allocation of funds to area non-profits and he is encouraged by all the good work that is being done in the area.
- h. **Emergency Planning Advisory Commission** (Valerie Crotty): Commissioner Crotty reported that the EPAC reviewed the Resident's Satisfaction Survey at their last meeting. She noted that #2 on the list were the efforts to allow seniors to age in place. She also noted the #1 way Arlingtonians receive information is ArlNow (~50%).
- i. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported that a group of 40-50 members is being formed to help move this effort to action. He noted that his name had been put forward but that he had not yet been notified of his acceptance.
- j. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Sara Pappas): No report.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported this committee met last week. He reported that pedestrian accidents are down 50% from last year. He noted that the Police Lieutenant is coming to the Commission meeting in February.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee met in November and the topic was the annual Medicare update. She reported that the next meeting will in January and the topic will be homelessness.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee continues to discuss the Red Top Cab sale to a national firm. He noted there have been a number of negative stories shared and issue reporting is now complicated.

## IX. Old Business

## X. New Business

## XI. Announcements and Public Comment

Chair Feaster noted that Commissioner Kanter was called out at the recent commissioner appreciation meeting. He also noted that County Board Vice-Chair Dorsey mentioned the Age-Friendly Arlington plan.

Commissioner Beversdorf noted that Aging Matters now has a television presence and that the third show featured the CoA Universal Design video.

Commissioner Hines noted that Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn from Fairfax was elected as the new House of Delegates Leader. She is an active participant in NVAN activities.

Ms. Coates notes that the County Board adopted its 2019 legislative platform at the Saturday meeting. She noted that priorities of generators for assisted living facilities, priorities to improve quality of life for long-term care workforce and full implementation for same-day access are included.

Commissioner Sutton noted that the annual fundraiser for the VHC Lifeline Assistance program is scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome.

Citizen, Aleksandr Belinskiy, reported a concern to the Commission that the new Carlin agreement does not mention providing elderly services. He hopes that the commission and AAA will contact the housing commission to remedy.

Ms. Coates noted that the January and February Commission meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday.

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

**Next Meeting: January 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 9am-11am  
Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS)  
Lower Level Auditorium**