



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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**Meeting Summary
January 28, 2019**

PRESENT: Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Valerie Crotty, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider (via phone), Sophie Shen, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Feaster, Cragg Hines, Gwendolyn Sutton, Senator Barbara Favola, Martha Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Kelleher, Duke Taylor

STAFF: Rachel Coates, Helen King

GUESTS: Laurie Young, Erica Wood, Jim Morris, Jennifer Collins, Joan McDermott, Angela Chadbourne, Andrea Walker, Mike Goldberg, Elizabeth Dakin, Helen McMann, Ed Zetlin, Sarah Martin

I. Networking

II. Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

III. Presentation by Katy Lang, Program Manager for [WalkArlington](#) and [Real Estate Tax Relief](#) by Amy Yorczyk.

- a. **Walk Arlington:** Ms. Lang, Program Manager for Walk Arlington, presented information on the Walk Arlington and Bike Arlington initiatives. She reported the goal of these programs is promote active transportation noting that active transportation supports an overall quality of life for all residents. She highlighted the link between active transportation program and livable communities. She noted two guiding principles: “Build it for Isabella” meaning travel in a community should be safe enough for a 12-year old to ride her bike to school and “20-minute neighborhoods” meaning most residents are within a 20-minute walk or bike to everything they need to live their day-to-day life. Ms. Lang expressed interest in identifying opportunities to work together to build community capacity and improve Arlington streets.
- b. **Real Estate Tax Relief Update:** Ms. Amy Yorczyk, Arlington County Housing Program Manager, presented updates to the Arlington County Real Estate Tax Relief program, a program that assists older home owners to stay in their homes. She noted the changes are the result of a work-group’s year long effort to review the program and bring it into alignment with the current environment. She highlighted changes to the income and asset levels to qualify, and the addition of a 75% exemption. She also noted that a select number of deductions could be applied for residents who do not qualify based on income and assets alone. She also noted that the filing deadling has been moved to November 15th. She reported that 915 households were approved in 2018.

IV. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

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

V. Chair’s Report

Carl Brooks

Vice-Chair Brooks noted that there are still some outstanding committee reports needed to complete the annual report. He asked that committee chairs send activities and

accomplishments to Ms. Coates by January 31. The goal is to complete the report in early February.

Vice-Chair Brooks reported that efforts are underway to identify and reach-out to other Commissions regarding the Age-Friendly initiative. He noted the efforts are focused on identifying the most advantageous relationships to move the age-friendly initiative forward.

Vice-Chair Brooks reminded the commissioners that with the new committee structure, each commissioner should have volunteered to participate on two committees. He noted that he and Chair Feaster would be reviewing and reaching out as needed.

VI. Staff Reports

Rachel Coates

AAA & ADSD Staff Reports: Ms. Coates noted that Ms. Bah-Duckenfield was not in attendance due to the Aging and Disability Services Division Open House. Ms. Coates invited everyone in attendance to visit the open house after this meeting.

Ms. Coates provided an update on the Division's efforts to track impact from the shutdown. She noted that the ADRC assisted individuals who were furloughed staff, contractors, and service providers whose hours had been reduced. She noted the assistance provided was primarily referrals to the food bank. She also noted the team was monitoring the impact to HUD, specifically the Section 202 program as well as the impact to the SNAP program.

Ms. Coates reported that she had attended the quarterly V4A meeting last week. The group hear from Commissioner Duke Storen from the Virginia Department of Social Services. She noted Commissioner Storen's focus from the coming year is food security and reported his efforts will be in improving senior's utilization of SNAP benefits.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Vice-Chair Brooks reported the executive committee will review structure and plans once Chair Feaster returns. He reminded the commissioners that the Committee Chairs are part of the executive committee.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider): Commissioner Schneider reported that last committee meeting focused primarily on the zoning issue for the Artis Assisted Living facility being planned. She noted that Artis has resubmitted their rezoning request and that a denial of the rezoning request could have repercussions for future approvals of Senior Housing and Assisted Living facilities in current areas zoned as residential. She noted that the committee may not meet until March due to the number of committee members currently traveling.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported the generators for assisted living legislation currently still being considered is a bill requiring facilities to disclose whether or not they have generator availability. Ms. Wood added that the committee is also following the NVAN budget priority regarding geriatric training and encouraged all present to write in support. Ms. Coates added that at V4A legislation to allocate \$100K for demographic services to assisted with future planning was discussed along with legislation that would provide the AAA's flexibility in allocating funding. Ms. Coates also noted HB1692 to increase the personal allowance for assisted living and nursing home residents was still active.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that this committee held its first meeting in early January and focused primarily on brainstorming. He noted the next meeting will be held Feb 7th and will focus primarily

on implementing listening sessions, targeting the March/April timeframe for some of the senior centers.

- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Gwendolyn Sutton): Commissioner Cumming reported that he and Commissioner Sutton were meeting to identify and resolve overlaps and differences between this committee and the Postive Aging committee. Commissioner Beversdorf added that Wendy Zenker had taken the lead to create a list of resource groups to visit regarding the Age Friendly Arlington initiative.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): No report.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Ms. Young reported that the operating committee met with a new intern, Rachel Burke, last week. Ms. Burke is a graduate student at Virginia Tech and will be helping with gathering data to feed the business plan. Ms. Young reported that the Senior Ambassador program may not be low-hanging fruit and will be considered as a longer term project. She noted the area agencies that have Senior Ambassador programs have a dedicated staff member to run them. Ms. Young noted that a joint listening sessions with Alexandria is planned for today and is focused on the LGBT community. Ms. Young noted the next meeting of the operating committee is February 22nd.
- 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 new registration process, giving priority to Arlington County residents, is going well. She also noted that the Senior Adult Council is currently in need of a secretary and she noted the Council meets every other month.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): No report
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott reported that the first workshop was held at Langston-Brown and a second is scheduled for March 11th at the Central Library. Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago added that a session is being considered for Mary Marshall.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that the Council heard a report from the Deputy Commisioner on Aging regarding the Governor's Budget, noting it was limited on aging resources as well as a presentation on Opioid use in older adults. She also noted that 2019-2023 State Plan is being developed based on feedback from the listening sessions and that additional opportunities to comment will be forthcoming.
- g. **Emergency Planning Advisory Commission** (Valerie Crotty): No report.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): Ms. McDermott reported that the next meeting of the Alliance is scheduled for February 12th at W-L High School from 7-9:45 pm.
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Sara Pappas): No report.
- j. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): No report.
- k. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee met in January heard a presentation from Scott Miller at A-SPAN and Mary Frances-Kenion from Arlington County on homelessness. She noted the next meeting is in March and will be a legislative update.
- l. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the main concerns of the Committee are the financial concerns of WMATA and problems with the STAR program.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Announcements and Public Comment

Ms. Coates noted that the new County Board liaison, Katie Cristol, plans to attend the February meeting.

Commissioner Villanegro-Santiago noted she has been invited to participate in a Human Rights Forum on Ageism on April 13th.

Mr. Morris reported that today is the first day for IRS processing of 2018 tax returns and that Arlington County has 4 locations offering free tax preparation.

XII. Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.

**Next Meeting: February 25th 9am-11am
Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS)
Lower Level Auditorium**