



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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**Meeting Summary
May 20, 2019**

PRESENT: Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Linc Cummings, Cragg Hines, Herschel Kanter, Linda Kelleher, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Gwendolyn Sutton, Duke Taylor, Martha Villanigro-Santiago

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Cheryl Beversdorf, Senator Barbara Favola, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF: Rachel Coates, Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Helen King

GUESTS: Cynthia Davis, Tom Daly, Mitch Opalski, Jim Morris, Claire Jacobsen, Paul Carswell, Jennifer Odlum, Andrea Walker, Lauren Brooks, David Gray, Rita Wong, Wendy Zenker, Jorge Browne

I. Networking

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

- III. Presentation on Accessibility and Disability Rights by Anthonia Sowho, Disability Coordinator, Arlington County.** Ms. Sowho provided an overview of her responsibilities as Disability Coordinator for Arlington County then asked commissioners for questions and input. Topics that were covered include new developments, sidewalks, and scooters. More information about Accessibility can be found [here](#).

Presentation on Shared Mobility Devices Demonstration Project by Paul DeMaio, Capital Bikeshare and Shared Mobility Manager, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services. Mr. DeMaio discussed the pilot program for shared mobility devices that was initiated in October 2018 with a timeframe for completion in June 2019. The goal of the pilot is to learn about the impact of dockless bikes and scooters. He reported that the program started with non-motorized bicycles and motorized scooters, and now only the scooters remain. Mr. DeMaio reported that through March there have been 239,000 scooter trips covering 245,000 miles, mainly focused around the metro corridors. The County setup the email mobility@arlingtonva.us to collect feedback and complaints. To date 600 emails have been received, some containing multiple complaints. Mr. DeMaio reported that the program will request an extension of the pilot through December to gather additional data through the warmer months. A program evaluation is planned during this time to analyze the program performance and propose improvements.

IV. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April meeting were unanimously approved as written.

V. Chair's Report

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster reported that a mobility tour of the neighborhood will occur immediately following the meeting. Commissioners have the opportunity to participate in a tour of the neighborhood using wheelchairs. He noted that the goal is to experience traveling using a wheelchair and to note the impediments and the quality of the crossings and access ramps.

**VI. Staff Reports
AAA Reports**

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates reported two commissioners recently resigned: Martha Wilson due to relocation and Valerie Crotty for health reasons. Sophie Shen and the recruitment committee will interview applicants.

Ms. Coates reported that she, Helen King and Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield are participating in meetings for the zoning study for eldercare use. Ms Coates reported the plan is to complete the study and obtain County Board approval by the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Coates reported that the Virginia Area Administrators on Aging (V4A) met in Fairfax in April. She reported that there will be a Governor's Conference on Aging in May 2020 – the date and location have not been selected.

Ms. Coates reminded Commissioners that as part of Older American's Month, the County Board will read a proclamation at the 3pm recessed meeting on May 21, followed by a reception in the Dogwood Room.

Ms. Coates recognized Jim Morris for his efforts in organizing Senior Law Day 2019. She reported over 40 individuals attended despite the rainy weather.

ADSD Reports

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted that this summer she will be looking at staff development. She also noted that she will focus on strategic planning for 2020 and beyond.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the Executive Committee meets on Wednesday at 4pm.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Kelleher reported that the committee will meet on Tuesday, May 28th at 4pm. The plan is to look at existing policies and use them as the base for the committee's age-friendly planning. Chair Feaster added that the committees should plan to have a draft of their respective goals and objectives by the end of July.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that tomorrow's NVAN meeting will decide the legislative priorities for 2020. Ms. Coates added that the NVAN meeting is open. Anyone who wants to come and vote on the agenda is welcome.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee attended the April 17th Earth Day event at the Arlington Mill Senior Center. He noted that the June meeting is moved to Thursday, June 6th at 9:30am in room C.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Gwendolyn Sutton): Commissioner Sutton reported that the PIO committee spent time discussing how to liase with faith communities. Commissioner Sutton reported that the June CoA meeting will be held at the Virginia Hospital Center in the Conference Center.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported that he and Ms. McDermott presented the Age Friendly initiative to the Transportation Committee and members were very interested. He noted that they requested the online link for the survey which he provided. Commissioner Hines noted that with the addition of Safety and Accessibility to the committee's responsibility, he is considering increasing the frequency of meetings – the committee currently meets quarterly.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Mr. Opalski reported that the Age-Friendly Steering Committee meets on the 3rd Friday at the Silver Diner at 8:30am. He noted that the big

- posters have arrived and can be placed around the community to collect input via post-it notes. Mr. Opalski also noted that work is being done to connect to more minority communities. He also noted the County Board Chair talked about Age Friendly in his remarks to the Arlington Neighborhood Villages Celebration.
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Mr. Opalski commented that Alexandria's Commission on Aging is addressing many of the same topics as Arlington and noted that we should find avenues to collaborate. He noted that the Alexandria Commission has a liaison from the police department who provides the commission with updates on happenings with the older adult community.
 - c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Ms. Walker reported that the 55+ Fitness Day attracted 80 attendees. She reported that new staff have been hired for the County Wide Program Manager and the Walter Reed Senior Center Director. Ms. Walker noted that the Alliance for Senior Programs is hosting a fundraiser at Rocklands on June 4th.
 - d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker thanked all commissioners who attended the May 3rd anniversary celebration, reporting that around 800 attended. She noted ANV plans to work on community outreach, targeting civic associations and farmer's markets.
 - e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Chair Feaster reported that Respecting Choices training was completed on 5/14 and Commissioner Cyndy Schneider is now a certified. He reported that events are planned at Langston-Brown and the Westover Branch of the library. He noted the coalition would like a representative from Virginia Hospital Center on their steering committee. The next meeting is scheduled for September.
 - f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): No report
 - g. **Emergency Planning Advisory Commission** (TBD): No report.
 - h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported that today at George Mason Founders Hall is an Open House for the Washington Area Bus Transformation Project. He noted the Alliance will continue the twice monthly open design studio hours, the next one is scheduled for 5/31 from 12:30-3:30 at 4600 Lee Highway.
 - i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): Ms. Wong reminded commissioners that anyone who wants to lead Falls Prevention classes can receive training. The Alliance is currently seeking lay leaders for their programs. Ms. Wong noted that the Senate Special Committee on Aging has chosen fall prevention as their topic for the year. They have called for comments and will collect them through June 26th.
 - j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that NVAN will meet tomorrow to vote on the 2020 legislative platform, all are welcome to come and vote.
 - k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster noted that Pam Van Hine discussed shared mobility devices and how to work more closely with Walk Arlington.
 - l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Mr. Morris reported that the Steering Committee met last Friday. The meeting featured a panel from Volunteer Arlington, RSVP and Encore Learning. Upcoming topics include Dementia Friendly Arlington in July and "Nursing Facilities – what you need to know" in September.
 - m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the highlight of the last meeting was the Age Friendly Arlington presentation. In addition, problems with STAR and local cab companies, WMATA funding, and the effects of the closing of metro station south of the airport were discussed

IX. Old Business

ADU revisions were approved with a 5' setback requirement.

X. New Business

XI. Announcements and Public Comment

The Culpepper Garden Springtime Party is scheduled for June 8th.

Housing Arlington, a discussion in the County initiative, has a program scheduled for May 29th at Wakefield Highschool.

Bill Schneider will discuss his latest book, "Standoff", today at the County Library.

Arlington has received a Dementia Friendly Community designation. The planning team meets monthly and should be added to the list of Liaison groups on the agenda. Martha Villanegro-Santiago and Gelareh Bassiry are currently the representatives but others are encouraged. Dementia Friendly is a new initiative for Arlington, and Goodwin House is taking the lead for the local effort. The Dementia Friendly effort will be discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting and will likely be included with the Age Friendly Arlington efforts.

A card of AARP events is available on the back table.

Paul Carswell announced that he is hosting a Medicare Information session at Brandywine on June 15th.

Commissioner Sutton announced that the Virginia Hospital Center Healthy Aging Series on June 24th will feature the Medical Director of the Stroke Center.

Reminder, the Older Adults Month Proclamation will be read tomorrow at 3pm in the County Board Room. Cake and reception will follow.

Next month, the Commission on Aging meeting will be held at Virginia Hospital Center.

XII. Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 17, 2019 at 9am at
DIFFERENT LOCATION
VIRGINIA HOSPITAL CENTER
1701 N. George Mason Drive
John T. Hazel Conference Center (Zone B)
Arlington, VA 22205**

https://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/patients/directions_parking_maps.aspx