



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING
c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary December 16, 2019

PRESENT: Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Linda Kelleher, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider (via phone), Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Senator Barbara Favola, Cragg Hines, Sophie Shen, Duke Taylor

STAFF: Rachel Coates, Jim Baker, Helen King

GUESTS: Tom Daly, Wendy Zenker, Erica Wood, Cynthia Davis, Joan McDermott, Kate Chutuape, Angela Chadbourne, Rita Wong, Mitch Opalski, Laurie Young, Jennifer Collins

I. Networking

II. Call to Order at 9:07 a.m. Chair Feaster opened the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. Pedestrian Safety: Lt. Dan Murphy from the Special Operations Section of the Arlington County Police Department presented an overview of accidents in Arlington County in 2019 with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian accidents. He noted that as of October, there were 2,500 accidents in Arlington County, 6 of them with fatalities (4 pedestrian and 2 motorcycle). He noted that 30% of the total accidents involve people 60 years and over and reported that 3 of the 4 fatal pedestrian incidents in Arlington in 2019 involved persons 60 and above. Lt. Murphy discussed the police department accident reduction program that involves education, enforcement and engineering.

Jewish Council for the Aging & Age Friendly Montgomery County: David Gamse, Chief Executive Officer for the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) provided an overview of the services his organization provides across the Metro Washington DC area. He provided an information packet and highlighted programs that Arlington residents can access. He shared an overview of the Age Friendly Montgomery County structure, highlighting that each of the 10 domains have 3 goals to achieve and a dedicated workgroup to achieve them. Their effort includes participants from government as well as community and private organizations.

IV. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November meeting were unanimously approved as written.

V. Chair's Report

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster reported that the Executive Committee will not meet in December. He also noted that there are 2 vacancies upcoming, reporting that Duke Taylor resigned and Cragg Hines' term ends in February.

VI. Staff Reports

AAA Reports

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates provided a Year End review presentation highlighting significant accomplishments from both the Commission and Agency on Aging for 2019.

VII. Committee Reports

a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): No report

- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee met with County Board Member Erik Gutshall to discuss affordable assisted living and the need for additional Auxiliary Grant beds. Commissioner Schneider reported that Chair Feaster attended the site plan review committee (SPRC) of the Artis proposal. The review focused on the physical plant and because Artis is not asking for additional density, there is no leverage to ask for AG beds. Commissioner Kelleher added that the Zoning Ordinance issue is on the County Board Recess Agenda on Tuesday, December 17th. It was noted that the Housing Commission submitted a letter in favor of the change and acknowledged that affordability needs to be addressed. In January, the board will consider another zoning ordinance proposal to allow elder care use as part of the Clarendon Revitalization project. Commissioner Schneider noted that Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago connected with the DC Age Friendly program regarding intergenerational housing and the next committee meeting will feature a speaker from Silver Nest.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee meets on the first Monday of the month and noted that there are potential opportunities this year for advocacy with the Virginia legislators.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the committee began work on the implementation plans for their age-friendly goals/actions.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the November committee meeting began brainstorming topics of interest for 2020.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): No report.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Ms. Young thanked all for the hard work in creating the Age-Friendly plans. She noted that the task force has reviewed the plans and will send back to each of the committee chairs for updates.
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria Commission on Aging recently conducted a survey of challenges facing Alexandrians. Affordable housing topped the list, followed by food the last week of the month and medical care.
- c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Commissioner Walker reported that the 55+ program has implemented a new inclement weather plan that decouples the 55+ programming from Arlington County Schools – instead linking closures and delays to the Arlington County Government operating status.
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker reported that ANV had collected gift cards for the County Secret Santa program.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott reported that CIAC will be offering 2 sessions in January at Langston Brown. The information session will be held on January 17th and the workshop session will be held January 24th.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported the Council will meet Wednesday, 12/18. She noted the NVAN members met with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to discuss the Long-term Care Ombudsman funding priority.
- g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago encouraged all commissioners to attend a dementia awareness session. She reported that the Dementia Friendly Arlington team meets at Goodwin House on the 3rd Thursday at 2pm and all are welcome to join.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): No report.
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): Ms. Wong reported that there are 2 trainings coming up for SAIL and Matter of Balance Leaders. She noted the biggest need is for volunteer trainers.

- j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): No report.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported the committee heard an update on Vision Zero.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting will be held January 17th and the topic is Census 2020.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): No report

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Announcements and Public Comment

Chair Feaster reported that 6 commission members attended the Digital Equity Forum.

Ms. Coates reminded all that the January and February meetings are held on the 4th Monday. The January meeting will be at Langston Brown.

Ms. Chutuape reported that the Virginia Hospital Center Senior Health program is moving to their new offices in Shirlington this week. She noted there is a purple flier available with programming, including new locations, and that the Care Givers Support Group will now meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington.

XII. Adjournment at 11:27 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 27, 2020
9am – 11am
Langston Brown 55+ Center
2121 N Culpeper St
Arlington, VA 22207