



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary January 27, 2020

PRESENT: Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Chloe Burke, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Linda Kelleher, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Sophie Shen, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Senator Barbara Favola

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

GUESTS: Tom Daly, Wendy Zenker, Erica Wood, Cynthia Davis, Joan McDermott, Kate Chutuape, Angela Chadbourne, Mitch Opalski, Laurie Young, Jennifer Collins, Cragg Hines, Claire Jacobsen, Jim Morris, Ellen Pincus, Bonnie O'Leary, Lora Pollari-Welbes

I. Networking

II. **Call to Order at 9:05 a.m.** Chair Feaster opened the meeting. Elizabeth Poole, Langston Brown 55+ Center Director welcomed all to the Center and gave a brief overview of the programming at the Langston Brown 55+ Center. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. **Site Plan Review Update on the Artis Assisted Living Facility:** Nick Cummings from Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, Jay Hicks from Artis Senior Living, and Clint Brackman & Ron Moore from Architecture Inc. provided the Commission with an update on the assisted living facility proposed for North Arlington. They presented the current site plan drawings, highlighting key features of the design, including green space and noted the facility will house up to 183 residents in a mix of studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units adding that 80 of the units will be memory care. When asked when the construction is slated to begin, the team reported likely Fall 2022. The team also reported that affordable units were unlikely due to the high costs of property, construction and labor.

Destination 2027 Update: Dr. Reuben Varghese, Director of Arlington Public Health Division, presented a summary of the Destination 2027 health equity activity. Dr. Varghese noted that Arlington has a wonderful health profile with an average life expectancy of 82 – but he noted that when you disaggregate the census tracks, the disparity arises. Dr. Varghese noted that 50% of our health comes from our behaviors, the other 50% comes from living conditions. Dr. Varghese challenged the commissioners to consider 4 questions in all decision making: who benefits, who is burdened, how do we know and who is missing.

IV. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December meeting were unanimously approved as written.

V. Chair's Report

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster requested that each committee chair review their Age Friendly work plan one final time, especially the timeline, reminding commissioners that there were 3 years to complete the items in the plan. Chair Feaster noted the final plan will be finalized by the Community Engagement Forum with the goal to send it to the County Board in March or April for approval then submit the approved plan to AARP by June.

VI. Staff Reports

AAA Report

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates thanked Jennifer Collins and Elizabeth Poole for hosting the Commission meeting at Langston Brown. Ms. Coates reported that the CoA's annual budget meeting will be March 9th at DHS, where Jim Baker and Jennifer Collins will share the impact of the County Manager's proposed budget to the group. This meeting is open to all who are interested. Ms. Coates reminded all that the Community Engagement Forum is scheduled for March 16th at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Ms. Coates noted that the inclement weather policy for commission meetings was included in the packet. Ms. Coates reported that the AAA has been invited to participate in the missing middle housing study and noted that staff from CPHD will present at the commission meeting on February 24th. Ms. Coates thanked outgoing Commissioner Hines for his service. She also recognized Cynthia Davis for her work on the Age Friendly Arlington plan.

ADSD Report

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported social work students from George Mason will be participating in the Community Engagement Forum this year and will provide a report to the Commission in April. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that April 1, 2020 is Census Day and charged the commissioners to ensure all residents are aware and everyone knows to respond. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield reported that the Division Chief job announcement will be released in February.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the commission owes the County Board an annual report on February 28th and input is needed from each of the committee chairs by the end of January. Chair Feaster invited commissioners to serve as facilitators in the upcoming Community Engagement Forum. Chair Feaster also noted that the Executive Committee is discussing moving the budget committee to the legislative committee.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee did not meet in December but will meet tomorrow. She noted that Jennifer Hammer from Silver Nest will present on shared housing, including some of the policy challenges her company faced. Commissioner Schneider reported that Linda, Erica and Jim attended the site plan review for the Artis proposal.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that this committee will meet next Monday. He also noted that NVAN will meet tomorrow. He noted that the 2020 general assembly session was underway. Ms. Coates thanked Ms. King for helping track more than 100 legislative items and report out updates on a weekly basis.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): Commissioner Cummings reported that the PAIE goals are related to intergenerational programs and getting people involved and aware about programs. He noted the committee is especially interested in the Fairfax Grand Involve program and will be learning more and discussing in upcoming meetings.
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee will meet later today to discuss age-friendly goals and objectives.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Cragg Hines): Outgoing Commissioner Hines reported that Commissioner Richardson will take over as chair and a meeting is planned for March or April.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Ms. Young reported that once the plan is submitted to the County Board and then to AARP, the 3-year execution period begins. A new planning cycle will begin toward the end of the initial 3-year period. The task force will operate as an evaluation committee and will review the plan on an annual basis.
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): Mr. Opalski reported that the Alexandria Commission on Aging is struggling with Senior Affordable Housing and

the CoA has a concept plan for a moderate-income facility. He also noted that the Dementia Friendly Alexandria website will be going live soon.

- c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Commissioner Walker reported that the Alliance is looking for new board members. She noted that the new inclement weather plan for the 55+ Centers is working. Lubber Run, which is currently under construction, will open to staff in September 2020 and to the public in January 2021
- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): Ms. Zenker reported that ANV welcomed new board members. She reported that there will be an all-hands meeting for members and volunteers on February 29th.
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott reported that the CIAC Steering Committee meeting is later today and the group will discuss recent outreach and upcoming events.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported the Council met in December but did not have quorum, so no action was taken on adopting a legislative platform. She noted the members in attendance reviewed the Governor's budget, noting the DARS staff analysis showed very little focus on aging. They also heard a presentation on CCC+. Ms. Wood noted that nominations for best practice awards are due February 28th and that NVAN had forwarded the announcement.
- g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that in 2020 training and outreach will focus on the faith communities. The Dementia Friendly Arlington website is near complete and will be available to the public soon.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): Commissioner Hines reported that the Alliance has planned outreach events to review the preliminary plan and a schedule will be available on the Arlington County Projects website.
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): No report
- j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that the next meeting will be January 28th.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the pedestrian advisory committee heard a presentation from an app developer who has developed an app to report violations. He noted the app allows users to take a picture or video of a violation and upload it, the app then shares the picture with the municipality.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the committee met in January and heard a presentation on the Census. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20th and will be the legislative update.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): No report
- n. **Vision Zero** (Carl Brooks): Vice Chair Brooks reported that the Vision Zero initiative's goal is to reduce serious accidents and deaths. He reported that there have been 2 meetings to date with more than 20 organizations represented. He noted that Arlington is safer than other areas but there are ongoing concerns.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Announcements and Public Comment

Commissioner Kanter reported that he is participating in the Water Rate Study. He noted that the last study was 10-15 years ago and that the rate structure is being evaluated, especially for those who struggle to afford the service.

Mr. Jim Morris reported that there is a new tax return form for older adults. The 1040 SR has larger print and no color. The form is available for filers 65+.

Commissioner Beversdorf announced that the topic for the next Aging Matters Television show is Pet Therapy. The next radio show will focus on obesity.

Commissioner Cummings noted that there is a new advanced directive form for people with dementia.

Ms. Coates asked all commissioners to let her know which of the Community Engagement Forum breakout sessions they would be willing to facilitate.

XII. Adjournment at 11:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 24, 2020
9am – 11am
Arlington Department of Human Services
2100 Washington Blvd, Lower Level Auditorium
Arlington, VA 22204