



## ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS  
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### Meeting Summary February 24, 2020

**PRESENT:** Jim Feaster, Carl Brooks, Cheryl Beversdorf, Chloe Burke, Herschel Kanter, Jim Richardson, Jim Ruff, Cynthia Schneider, Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker

**ABSENT:** Linc Cummings, Sophie Shen

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Senator Barbara Favola, Linda Kelleher,

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

**GUESTS:** Tom Daly, Wendy Zenker, Erica Wood, Cynthia Davis, Joan McDermott, Kate Chutuape, Angela Chadbourne, Jennifer Collins, Claire Jacobsen, Jim Morris, Rita Wong, Christine Sheehy, Emily Collins, Michelle Thomas, Gelareh Bassiry, Hannah Withers, Seyoum Berhe

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#### I. **Networking**

II. **Call to Order at 9:05 a.m.** Chair Feaster opened the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

III. **Missing Middle Housing Study:** Russell Schroeder, Principal Planner, and Kelli Brown, Associate Planner, from the Arlington County Housing, Planning & Community Development Division, provided an overview of the upcoming Missing Middle Housing Study. Mr. Schroeder noted that the goal of the study is to increase the supply of housing and diversify the range of housing types. Ms. Brown noted that the study is currently in a pre-planning phase. The goal of Phase I is to build a common understanding and define the scope. Phase II will define what solutions make the most sense for Arlington and Phase III will define the implementation plan. Ms. Brown and Mr. Schroeder noted that scope of work is posted on the County website and they encourage commissioners to provide their [feedback](#).

**Census 2020:** Victoria Ongodia, Arlington County Community Outreach Program and Elizabeth Hardy, Arlington County Demographer, provided an overview of the upcoming 2020 Census. They noted that this year will be the first year that the Census department will be encouraging online responses. Other options for response are phone or via a paper form. They noted that households will receive a postcard invitation in the mail around March 12<sup>th</sup>. Households that do not respond online will be sent a paper form. Households that have not responded online or via the paper form will be visited by an enumerator between May and July. For more information and to engage visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4eaeaf28a2f58-community>.

#### IV. **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved as written.

#### V. **Chair's Report**

Jim Feaster

Chair Feaster thanked Cynthia Davis and Carlos Velazquez for their hard work in finalizing the Age-Friendly Implementation Action plan. He noted the plan is almost complete and should go to the County Board for adoption in April. Chair Feaster reminded all that the Community Engagement Forum is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> and that facilitators are needed for the breakout sessions.

## VI. Staff Reports

### AAA and ADSD Report

Rachel Coates

Ms. Coates noted that the Community Engagement Forum is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-12:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. She noted the facility has parking and is accessible. Ms. Coates noted the key theme of the event this year is “Moving Forward Together” and noted that the breakout sessions will focus on Housing, Transportation, Communication & Information, and Equity & Longevity. Ms. Coates stated that facilitators will be provided questions and facts to help guide the conversation and George Mason Students will help to scribe. A training session will be provided prior to the event. Ms. Coates encouraged all to invite people to the event – the goal is to have a broad range of participants.

Ms. Coates reported the ADSD Division Chief job has been posted. She reported that the County Budget will be released February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Commission Budget Committee will meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> and Jim Baker and Jennifer Collins will share a summary of the County Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Ms. Coates reported the Governor’s Conference on Aging is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and that Michelle Thomas will present a session on the partnership between VICAP and Behavioral Health program AARI to educate older adults on proper drug disposal. Ms. Coates reported that Meals on Wheels program continues to grow and that the all-volunteer board is looking for assistance developing fliers and promotional materials.

Ms. Coates welcomed Mr. Berhe from the Virginia Office of Newcomer Services.

## VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the last executive committee meeting focused on the Age Friendly timeline.
- b. **Housing and Community Supports** (Cyndy Schneider/Linda Kelleher): Commissioner Schneider reported that the committee heard a presentation from Silver Nest, a company that connects people for home sharing arrangements, highlighting the project Silver Nest has with Arizona State University where students and older adults are matched.
- c. **Legislative** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that the next meeting is Monday, March 2. Commissioner Kanter noted that the legislation to provide a dental benefit with Medicaid continues to progress in the legislative session.
- d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment** (Linc Cummings): No Report
- e. **Public Information and Outreach** (Cheryl Beversdorf/Carlos Velazquez): Commissioner Velazquez reported that the last committee meeting focused on developing educational materials for older adults.
- f. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility** (Jim Richardson): Commissioner Richardson reported that he is working to develop a plan to cover the Age Friendly goals developed by the committee under former Commissioner Hines. He noted that he will schedule the first meeting of the committee in March after the Community Engagement Forum. He highlighted some interesting activity at the State and Local level, including the expansion of passenger rail and 6 new positions in Arlington for traffic operations and engineering.

## VIII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Age-Friendly Arlington** (Laurie Young): Ms. Cynthia Davis reported the task force will meet Friday at 8:30am
- b. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski/Linc Cummings): No report.
- c. **Alliance for Senior Programs/Senior Adult Council** (Andrea Walker): Commissioner Walker reported that the Alliance continues to look for new board members. She noted there will be a job search workshop in April and a job fair in May as part of the 55+ programs. She also noted there will be a half-day workshop on reinventing self and registration is required.

- d. **Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)** (Wendy Zenker): No report
- e. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott reported that the steering committee met in January and Advance Care planning sessions are scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>. Kathleen Garces-Foley will host a session on death memoirs on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- f. **Commonwealth Council on Aging** (Erica Wood): Ms. Wood reported that the council will next meet on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She reminded everyone that the solicitation for best practice awards closes Friday.
- g. **Dementia Friendly Arlington** (Martha Villanigro-Santiago): Commissioner Villanigro-Santiago reported that the group focused their efforts to host information session to faith communities. They are open to ideas in addition to the library to host these sessions.
- h. **Lee Highway Alliance** (Cragg Hines): No report
- i. **NOVA Falls Prevention Alliance** (Rita Wong): Ms. Wong reported that there are currently SAIL sessions being held in Arlington and that the Alliance is looking for places to hold A Matter of Balance classes.
- j. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter noted that the next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- k. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster): Chair Feaster reported that the pedestrian advisory committee met the new Director of Walk Arlington, Mary Dallao and heard a presentation on the new Complete Streets program – which focuses on improving walkability, including intersections to make them safer.
- l. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Cheryl Beversdorf): Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> and will be the legislative update.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Herschel Kanter): Commissioner Kanter reported that this committee meets every other month and the usual topic of discussion is concerns with STAR.
- n. **Vision Zero** (Carl Brooks): Vice Chair Brooks reported that the Vision Zero initiative has hosted pop-up meetings in February to collect inputs to keep Arlington safe. He noted that transportation safety is becoming a big issue and that more pop-ups are planned to continue to collect input from the public.

**IX. Old Business**

**X. New Business**

**XI. Announcements and Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Morris reminded all that March 3 is the Presidential Primary.

Ms. Erica Wood reported that there will be a 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Law Day the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May.

**XII. Adjournment at 10:50 a.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

**March 16, 2020 from 9:30am – 12:30pm**

**Commission Meeting: 12:30 – 1:30pm**

Unitarian Universalist Church  
4444 Arlington Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22204