



## **ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING**

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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### **Meeting Summary October 18, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Linda Kelleher, Chair; Jim Richardson, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Beversdorf, Kate Chutuape, Linc Cummings, Herschel Kanter, Audrey Kremer, Naci Powell, Sophie Shen, Cynthia Schneider, Juan Carlos Velazquez, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Andrea Walker, William Way

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** Chloe Burke, Delegate Alfonso Lopez

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

**GUESTS:** Jennifer Collins, Tom Daly, Martha Hill Gray, Claire Jacobsen, Joan McDermott, Jim Morris, Jennifer Odlum, Bonnie O'Leary, Mitch Opalski, Phillip Schneider, Kathy Scruggs, Alistair Watson, Rita Wong, Erica Wood, Wendy Zenker; Kellie Brown, Matt Ladd, Richard Tucker, Russell Danao-Schroeder

#### **I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Kelleher called the meeting to order and asked guests to identify themselves via the chat function. She welcomed new Commissioner Audrey Kremer, PhD.

#### **II. Housing Committee Spotlight**

Commissioner Schneider introduced Kellie Brown, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor and Matt Ladd, Principal Planner of the Planning Division within the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development. Ms. Brown and Mr. Ladd provided an update on the Phase 1 Report of the Missing Middle Housing Study. A finalized report on Phase 1 will be issued in November 2021 for approval by the County Board.

Commissioner Schneider noted the Missing Middle Housing Study was included in the Housing Committee Age-Friendly goals as part of their focus on affordable housing solutions in our community.

#### **III. Approval of the September Meeting Minutes**

On a motion made and seconded, the minutes from the September meeting were unanimously approved as written.

#### **IV. Chair's Report/Executive Committee**

Chair Kelleher noted that the Executive Committee met to discuss budget priorities for FY 2023 and asked Commissioners to help identify appropriate volunteers to fill the two remaining Commissioner vacancies. Chair Kelleher reminded all present to vote on election day.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

##### **a. Arlington Agency on Aging (AAA)**

AAA Director Helen King began by noting that the Aging and Disability Services Resource Center (ADRC) continues to provide community assistance primarily by phone, but the team is starting to see an increase in walk-in service requests. She noted that the annual Medicare open enrollment season began on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Appointments can be scheduled with the VICAP team to review Medicare coverage. The third pop-up Farmers Market was held at Culpepper Gardens in October with 65 residents participating. A final pop-up market is scheduled for November.

##### **Community Supports & Coordination Bureau (CSCB)**

In the absence of Rachel Coates, Ms. King reported that the County now had a revised website and has selected a new County logo. She urged Commissioners and guests to

register for GWU's Age Friendly Social Innovation Virtual Conference to be held October 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. King added that early voting is available through October 30<sup>th</sup>.

b. **ADSD Staff Report**

Aging and Disability Services Division Chief Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield reported that the Division was experiencing a "season of change" with staff retirements and vacancies. ADSD is once again hosting several interns, including a nutrition intern who will assist with local food security issues. She reminded Commissioners that November is National Caregivers Month.

**VI. Committee Reports and Liaison Reports**

a. **Public Information and Outreach**

Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the Committee was looking at external funding to support a new Senior Ambassador Program. Commissioner Velazquez noted that the updated outreach presentation was almost finalized. Upcoming broadcasts of "Aging Matters" will feature VICAP staff and a program on palliative care.

b. **Legislative Committee**

Commissioner Kanter reported that the committee has started meeting with our State delegation to promote the NVAN platform. He noted that the Annual Legislative Forum set for November 4<sup>th</sup> would be virtual and require pre-registration to receive NVAN materials.

c. **Long-Term Care Residences**

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield noted the committee recently reached the anniversary of its inauguration. A recent meeting focused on continuing efforts to ensure adequate Covid safety measures and discussed accessibility of Covid vaccine booster shots and annual flu shots for residents and staff members.

d. **Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment**

Commissioner Cummings reported the Positive Aging, Inclusion and Enrichment Committee now meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 9am. He noted that a recent session had included an update from Nicholas Englund from the Office of 55+ Programs. The Committee also reviewed actions needed to add the "Loop Audio System" to more public facilities. Commissioner Walker reported that plans for a Spring 2022 "Walking School Bus" pilot program were ongoing with representatives from APS.

e. **Transportation, Safety and Accessibility**

Commissioner Richardson reported that the Transportation Committee recently held a listening session at Culpepper Garden and has gathered feedback for consideration. Joan McDermott reported that a letter to the County Board was in process to offer support for proposals coming before the County Board that focus on planned changes at Pentagon City that include widening pedestrian walkways, adding bike lanes and revising area school zone speed limits. Commissioner Way reported on recent safety "red flag" placement ceremonies assisted by local scout groups and noted that upcoming ceremonies are open to the public.

**Liaison Reports**

a.) **Age-Friendly Arlington**

Erica Wood reported that the Social Innovation Summit is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> and several individuals from Arlington will participate. She noted the next Age Friendly Task Force meeting is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> and the primary topic of the meeting will be the role of the Task Force in relation to the Commission on Aging.

- b.) Alliance 55+/Senior Adult Council  
Commissioner Walker noted that in-person activities are available at all 55+ Centers except Walter Reed, which continues to serve as a vaccination site. The Social 60+ Café program has been moved from Walter Reed to Arlington Mill. Ms. Walker reported that the Alliance Internet Essentials program continues at Langston Brown and the Alliance applied for CDBG funds. The Alliance has also reached out to the Arlington Adult Education program to expand the technology instruction component of the Internet Essentials program.
- c.) Alexandria Commission on Aging  
Commissioner Cummings reported that the Alexandria AARP Age-Friendly Action Plan has reached its first 5-year span and is now working on their second 5-year plan. He reported that DASH is now free for all older adults, but ridership is about half of pre-pandemic levels.
- d.) Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)  
Wendy Zenker reported that the ANV Board is exploring its vision, mission, goals, and objectives for the 3–5-year horizon and how ANV can extend its reach and partner and support more older adults in our community. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Wendy.
- e.) Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)  
Joan McDermott reported that the Steering Committee met in August and that in-person program activities are still on hold.
- f.) Commonwealth Council on Aging  
Erica Wood reported that the Council met in September to adopt its 2021 Annual Report and legislative platform. She noted the CCA is gearing up for next year's best practices awards. She reported the VA Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) recently published a report on adult guardianship reforms. The report can be found on the Commission's website: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/>.
- g.) Dementia Friendly Arlington – No Report
- h.) Falls Prevention Alliance – No Report
- i.) Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) – No Report
- j.) Steering Committee on Older Persons  
Commissioner Beversdorf reported that the upcoming November meeting will feature an update on Medicare.

**VII. Old Business - None**

**VIII. New Business - None**

**IX. Announcements and Public Comment**

In follow-up to his inquiry last month, resident Philip Schneider updated the Commission about his request to have the County issue new regulations limiting private property light spillage. Chair Kelleher referred the matter to the Housing Committee for discussion at its next meeting.

- X. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Schneider. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.