



## COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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### MEETING SUMMARY

January 27, 2014

Approved at the February 24, 2014 meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Molly Davis, Gordon Hasenei, Sheila Hess, Joan McDermott, Donald Miller, Andrea Walker, Lena Wang, Erica Wood, Laurie Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lincoln Cummings, Kristi Dudash\*, Patrick Hope\*, Thomas Kerwin \*, Mitchell Opalski\* \* Excused

**STAFF:** Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Glenda Blake, Meredith Eisenhart, Aaron Kocian, Susan Lane

#### I. Call to Order: 9:05 a.m.

#### II. Presentation and Tour of Arlington Mill: Robert Sharpe, DHS, and Jennifer Weber, Arlington Mill Senior Center Director

- Robert Sharpe:
  - The County Board approved the redevelopment in 2008, including the adjacent affordable housing units. The community center has 5 floors, 3.5 of which have been completed and are in use.
  - The affordable housing has 122 units, 13 of which are supportive housing units for persons with disabilities. First move-ins are expected in March or April.
  - The community center features a fitness room and full-size gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, a two-story garage, an outdoor public plaza and playground, retail space, and room to expand programs and services.
  - There are diverse multicultural, bilingual, and multigenerational programs, including daily activities for older adults for social involvement, fitness and creativity, nutritious congregate meals, job skills training and job placement.
- Jennifer Weber:
  - Distributed and briefly reviewed: the 55+ Guide and flyers on specific programs, the Arlington Mill Senior Center newsletter, and a sheet on the Congregate Meals Program.
  - Staff members are working on increasing the number of seniors using the center. Continuing construction may be contributing to slowing this effort.
- A tour of the facility completed the presentation.

#### III. Minutes Approval

**MOTION:** Unanimously approved the minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting as presented.

#### IV. Chair's Report

- A. NVAN: At the January meeting, Fairfax County spoke about their health and wellness program, whose theme is "Helping you stay in the home you love." They also addressed linguistically

The Arlington Commission on Aging, a body of residents experienced in matters concerning older people, advises the Arlington Agency on Aging and the Arlington County Board on aging issues.

isolated seniors. The General Assembly passed a resolution patroned by Patrick Hope and copatroned by the Arlington delegation commending Terri Lynch. House Bill 312: Financial Exploitation was discussed. Last year a bill criminalizing financial exploitation and this year civil action for recovering lost funds was passed. The no-excuse absentee voting law for residents 65 and over passed in the Senate and is now in the House.

- B. Annual Report: The CoA's annual report went to the County Board on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Copies will be provided at the February meeting.
- C. Other: The Executive Committee met at the request of Ms. Bah-Duckenfield to review suggested modifications to the public hearing, which will be discussed under New Business.

## V. Director/Staff Report

### A. Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield:

- At the February CoA meeting, County Board member Libby Garvey will present on the new commission members' handbook draft. The final version is expected in June. The February meeting is likely to run about 30 minutes longer than usual. Commissioners please accommodate this in your schedule.
- Steve Holmes, Executive Director of Culpepper Garden, is retiring at the end of March.
- Due to expected increases in real estate tax assessments, it appears now that no budget reductions will be necessary in FY15.
- The ADSD Customer Service Center has a new supervisor, Suzanne Fink, as of January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Bah-Duckenfield would like to meet with each commissioner individually to get a better understanding of each one's interests and goals.

### B. Glenda Blake:

- The Woodmont Weavers have signed a new lease with Ballston Mall. No relocation is being considered at this time.
- The RAFT program has now reached its goal of 40 clients.

## VI. Committee Reports

- Budget (Joan McDermott): The proposed FY 2015 budget will be presented to the County Board on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The CoA Budget committee will have a briefing the first week of March.
- Legislative (Joan McDermott): The new County Board Chair is Jay Fissette. Chris Zimmerman is retiring. There will be a special election in April to fill the vacancy. The Democratic primary caucus is meeting the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>. The General Assembly began its new session on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Three Legislative Committee members, Laurie Young, Anne Hermann (CSB), and Joan McDermott, will visit the General Assembly on Tuesday, January 28 and meet with the Arlington delegation to advocate for bills in support of the 2014 NVAN Legislative Platform.
- Membership (Joan McDermott): The committee held eight interviews in January and will forward their recommendation to the County Board for appointment in February.
- Public Information and Outreach (Gordon Hasenei): The document promoting the Speakers Bureau is now being distributed. The committee finalized a flyer about the Speakers Bureau and that is now being distributed, as well.
- New Media (Laurie Young): Ms. Young and Ms. Rose are averaging two posts per week on the CoA Facebook page. The census has gone up by about 20 people in the last few months. Please send items to Ms. Young for posting.
- Senior Centers (Sheila Hess): The committee visited Walter Reed Senior Center on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hess noted that it is a very well-run center. They have 35-50 congregate meal participants

daily. The committee will visit the Lee Center next.

- Strategic Planning (Joan McDermott): The January meeting was preempted by the Executive Committee meeting (see New Business). They will meet February 5 and plan a joint meeting between the Commissions on Aging and Long-Term Care Residences.
- Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood): Their January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a time for visioning. They will: review the status of the Assistive Technology suitcase project, continue to work on their Aging in Place document and get it distributed with the Public Information and Outreach committee's assistance, and continue to follow the progress of the Arlington Neighborhood Villages project.

## VII. Liaison/Meetings Reports

- Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (Nort Beckerman): They are in the process of restructuring the organization. Everyone is invited to their February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10 a.m. at Lubber Run in room 204 where they will present their plans for the year.
- Arlington Interfaith Council (AIC) (Joan McDermott): Ms. McDermott is no longer her church's representative. She will attend the meetings only occasionally, and will continue to receive their newsletter. If anyone wants to be CoA liaison to the AIC, contact Ms. McDermott.
- Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) (Andrea Walker): ANV is opening its doors in March with a designated office space. A \$10,000 donation was received. A workshop will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> in Westover. Three presentations are scheduled in February and one in March. ANV needs members and volunteers.
- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Kristi Dudash): If the CoA has priority areas for the commission to address, please send them to Ms. Dudash.
- Affordable Housing Study (Candice Rose): At the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Affordable Housing Principles were reviewed and accepted with minor revisions. Eric Timar did a presentation on the Tenant Assistance Fund.
- Long-Term Care Residences Commission (Lynwood Sinnamon): The Commission is requesting nominations from local long-term care facilities for employee awards by the County Board. The awards program is targeted for the County Board meeting on June 17th. The Commission has continued their presentations to local groups with one on January 2<sup>3rd</sup>, and one planned each month in February, March and April.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Don Miller): The Committee is addressing the issue of the placement of newspaper kiosks and other impediments on Arlington sidewalks.
- Senior Adult Council (SAC) (Andrea Walker): Virginia Blake resigned from the SAC on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday after 40 years of participation. The Council is concerned that the travel director slot is unfilled since 2012, so the 30+ year overnight travel program is suspended.
- Steering Committee (Lena Wang): The March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will be a legislative update by Delegate Patrick Hope.
- TRIAD (Don Miller): The January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was the first one held in Falls Church. As only two people participated, they are holding the discussion of including Alexandria in the group until the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Vertical Village (VV) (Molly Davis): Dr. Davis's presented at the Gerontological Society of America on Arlington Vertical Village. She would like the CoA to look at NY's Age Friendly model for new ideas. The VV project has a Sustainability Committee looking into finding funds to extend the program beyond June 30<sup>th</sup> when County funding expires. They are writing 2 grant funding proposals. A program on Emergency Preparedness was held in December.

**VIII. Old Business: None.**

**IX. New Business:** The Executive Committee met on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss Ms. Bah-Duckenfield's proposal for changes to the public hearing. She has found that different groups around the state use a variety of methods; no one is using the formal hearing process. It was suggested that the March public hearing offer presentations on 5 core services: Customer Service, Transportation, Adult Protective Services, Nutrition, and In-Home Services which will allow for more in-depth presentations and more time for questions and discussion. The longer-term goal is to hear in-depth presentations on varied services throughout the year at the monthly meetings for more substantive dialogues. Also, there is a push to get out into the community to meet diverse residents where they are, to get their input, and to tell them about services. Commissioners agreed to the new format for this March's public hearing, which will be held at the DHS Sequoia building in the Auditorium on March 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m.

**X. Announcements and Public Comment**

- Andrea Walker: Goodwin House (GH) applied to the Commonwealth for license in-home continuing care, similar to that provided at its facilities. Termed "life-care," this service is for able-bodied persons who plan to stay in their homes as they age. There are physical/mental standards to be met, and these persons must have a home that meets, or can be modified to meet, accessibility standards. More details are forthcoming in February.
- Joan McDermott: Noted an article about high-tech safety gadgets, such as pill bottles that alert medical personnel when empty, a floor that provides an alert when someone falls on it, or showers that give an alert when they have not been used for some period.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.