



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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MEETING SUMMARY

May 19, 2014

Approved at the July 21, 2014 meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lincoln Cummings, Kristi Dudash, Gordon Hasenei, Sheila Hess, Cragg Hines, Thomas Kerwin, Joan McDermott, Donald Miller, Mitchell Opalski, Andrea Walker, Lena Wang, Erica Wood, Laurie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Molly Davis, Patrick Hope * Excused

STAFF PRESENT: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Meredith Eisenhart, Aaron Kocian, Susan Lane

I. **Call to Order:** 9:02 a.m.

II. **Arlington Housing Initiatives**

- **Cynthia Stevens, Department of Human Services, Housing Bureau Chief (See Housing Rental Assistance Programs handout):** Spoke about the Housing Grants Program, the Section 8 – Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Permanent Supportive Housing Program, the 100 Homes Program where 84 homeless persons have been placed in permanent housing so far, and the Real Estate Tax Relief Program.
- **Russell Schroeder, Community Planning, Housing and Development, Principal Planner (See PowerPoint Presentation):** Spoke about the Affordable Housing Study, in its second of three years, the study's purpose and scope, its final product and the Arlington Vision. The Affordable Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan is due June 2015. Virginia Code requires "Rehabilitation and maintenance of affordable housing, which is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents of all levels of income..." He reviewed the study group's recommended Affordable Housing Principles and charts showing demographic changes in residents and Arlington's affordable housing.

III. **Minutes Approval:** Unanimously approved the minutes of the April 21, 2014 meeting as presented.

IV. **Chair's Report**

- A. **Proclamations:** Ms. McDermott distributed the Governor's Certificate of Recognition of Older Virginians Month and reviewed demographics on older Virginians. Also, the County Board issued an Older Americans Month proclamation.
- B. **Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV):** Several members of the CoA attended the launch party.
- C. **Charter:** The proposed new CoA charter was reviewed and voted on at the April meeting and sent to the County Board Liaison, Libby Garvey, before the May 15 deadline.
- D. **Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN):** Is brainstorming items for inclusion in its 2015 Legislative Platform at the May 20 meeting.
- E. **Budget Response from County Board:** County Board Chair, Jay Fissette, sent a letter thanking the CoA for its advocacy related to ANV's requested \$30,000 one-time grant to hire an

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.

Executive Director and WiFi at the Madison and Lee Centers.

- F. Committee Updates: Mr. Kerwin was inadvertently left off the Senior Center Committee list. A non-member, Patricia Sullivan, is joining the Legislative Committee.

V. Director/Staff Report

A. Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield:

- Distributed the Arlington County Resident Survey, Consolidated Plan 2016-2020.
- Distributed CoA Recruitment flyers.
- Distributed and reviewed highlights of Arlington's Urban Design and Research Profile 2014.
- Ms. Bah-Duckenfield and Ms. Eisenhart will conduct an aging analysis across Arlington over the next six to twelve months. The plan is to review trends and gaps in services for older residents with management teams across the county, providing feedback on the status of the Elder Readiness Plan.
- The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) public hearing is on June 10. The CIP is updated biannually, identifying both immediate and longer-term needs. DHS items included: year-round homeless shelter opening in 2015 and Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence.
- Commonwealth Coordinated Care (CCC) pilot project for Medicare-Medicaid Dual-Eligibles was rolled out on May 1st in Northern Virginia, where there are three coordinated care providers. Participants can opt in or out of a plan of their choice. If they do nothing by July, they will be enrolled automatically in a suitable plan.
- The Department of Rehabilitative Services (DARS) has hired a staff member as the Coordinated Care Educator to provide outreach on the CCC program around the state.

VI. Committee Reports

- Legislative (Joan McDermott): Discussed the status of budget items for which the CoA advocated. Noted that County employees will get merit raises in the FY2015 budget, but a hiring slow-down was reinstated. Discussed the CIP, which is to be adopted by the County Board on July 19. Still no state budget due to discord over Medicaid Expansion. The committee will decide in June whether or not to sponsor a pre-General Assembly forum in the fall.
- Membership (Linc Cummings): Will meet on strategy after this meeting.
- Public Information and Outreach (Gordon Hasenei): Refined and re-distributed the Speakers Bureau flyer. Continued work on a PowerPoint presentation to encompass ASD services, OSAP programs, and Long-Term Care resources.
- New Media (Laurie Young): Posted information on Older Americans Month's theme, "Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow. Will add information throughout the month.
- Senior Centers (Sheila Hess): Completed their last site visit of the year at Arlington Mill. Distributed the report and noted the excellent job the new Director, Jennifer Weber, is doing.
- Strategic Planning (Joan McDermott): Reviewing the status of the Elder Readiness Plan, how it is meeting the needs of older Arlingtonians today, and whether or not it needs updates.
- Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood): Steve Gurney from Guide to Retirement Living came to their April meeting and reviewed the Seven Steps for Aging in Place, which he suggested be taken separately and expanded upon. The Committee is continuing to promote information on aging in place and working on development of presentations on use of assistive technology.
- Transportation (Don Miller): In June, Steve Yaffe will discuss Rosslyn mid-day transit updates.

VII. Liaison/Meetings Reports

- Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) (Andrea Walker): The Executive Director position

description will be posted soon. ANV expects to hear from the IRS on its 501(c)3 status in June or July.

- Community Development Citizens Advisory Council (CDCAC) (Linc Cummings): Grant proposals are due in June.
- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Kristi Dudash): In April, they met with the Information Technology Advisory Commission (ITAC) regarding the transition from copper wire to fiber optics and the problems this causes using phones during power outages.
- Housing Study: ANV will arrange housing study focus groups with interested adults who want to age in place.
- Long-Term Care Residences Commission: In May, had a presentation on ANV from Carol Paquette. Updated their charter and sent it to County Board liaison, Libby Garvey.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Still need someone to be the CoA liaison to this group.
- Senior Adult Council (Andrea Walker): Will celebrate its 60th anniversary this year.
- Steering Committee (Lena Wang): The July 18 meeting topic will be scams against seniors.
- Transit Advisory Committee: Had a briefing from the person who headed the economic study on the Columbia Pike Streetcar project.
- Vertical Village (Joan McDermott): At a recent Womenade meeting, Donna Thurman of Volunteers of America reported the Vertical Village received a check last fall from Womenade.

VIII. Old Business: None.

IX. New Business:

- A. Curbside Voting: Ms. Wood reported on unavailability of curbside voting at her polling place. The CoA discussed this issue and related questions. The following **MOTION** was unanimously approved: The CoA will send a letter to Arlington's Voter Registrar raising its concerns about curbside voting and related issues of staff training, public education and awareness.
- B. Assistive Technology (AT) Suitcase Proposal: The AT subcommittee requested the Senior Alliance to provide funding for its AT Suitcase Project. The Senior Alliance has agreed to do so, but needs a formal grant request. There is an issue about to whom the money can be paid, as the CoA does not accept money. This will be discussed and resolved in the near future. The following **MOTION** was unanimously approved: The Commission on Aging endorses the Assistive Technology Suitcase project, commends the Assistive Technology Subcommittee of the Supportive Services and Housing Committee for its work, and encourages the implementation of the project in a timely manner.
- C. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Ms. McDermott reviewed highlights of the information she received from Ms. Garvey on how FOIA applies to the CoA.
- D. Get Well Wishes from the CoA to Ms. Garvey: The following **MOTION** was unanimously approved: CoA Chair, Joan McDermott, will extend Get Well wishes on behalf of the CoA to Libby Garvey as she recovers from her biking accident injury.

X. Announcements and Public Comment

- Ms. Cheryl Johnson, Office of Senior Adult Programs (OSAP): Their 55+ Fitness Day was a success, with about 80 participants. The Sunset Swing at Arlington Mill was enjoyed by 35 participants and prizes for the dance contests were provided by the Senior Alliance. OSAP is advertising Supportive Services and Housing's "Aging in Place" programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.