



COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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MEETING SUMMARY

May 18, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nels Andersen, James Feaster, Gordon Hasenei, Cragg Hines, Joan McDermott, Mitchell Opalski, Patricia Sullivan, Andrea Walker, Lena Wang, Erica Wood, Lincoln Cummings, Valerie Crotty, Laurie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Favola* * Excused

STAFF PRESENT: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Meredith Eisenhart, Aaron Kocian, Glenda Blake

- I. Call to Order: 9:04 a.m.
- II. Presentation: Pat Carroll - Legislative Liaison – County Manager’s Office - 10 years as liaison. Is responsible for anything related to the state and lobbies at the General Assembly. The County is part of various statewide organizations that have a wide breadth of influence at the state level. Pat also works on policy development such as transportation issues regarding Uber. In developing the legislative packet every spring a request is sent to every Commission to get input, particularly asking for info on bills that might have some negative impact on the County. The packet is drafted close to the end of October and coordinated with the Board. It is then voted and adopted at the Board’s Public Hearing in November.

The 2016 General Assembly session begins Jan 13th and ends March 12th. This is the only budget the Governor will develop and work with for the next two years. He will announce his budget on December 17th and it must be finalized before the holidays.

The General Assembly considers approximately 3000 bills each session.

Pat’s role also includes monitoring legislation, analyzing and tracking the budget, shepherding Arlington legislation, and communicating to the board and to the delegation. She has to first triage the work, focus on bills unique to Arlington, then consider bills affecting Arlington priorities, and finally consider all other budget items. The main priority in 2016 is getting 0.25% transient occupancy tax reinstated for Arlington.

Arlington is one of two counties that maintains its roads in the state. Our lane mile payment from the state is higher than any other jurisdiction.

Just before crossover it is intense and during crossover a lot of bills are weeded out. Arlington has seven delegates on the Arlington delegation. Pat checks with their office every day.

Right now is the time to solicit priorities. Current projection is that revenue is up one to two percent. Pat’s suggestion is to start thinking about one or two priorities to focus on. Bob Brink is someone the Commission should think about sending members to meet with and communicate priorities. One suggestion is to restore cuts that have been received in aging.

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.

CoA can be most effective by prioritizing requests if possible. It is good to create a one-pager with details and local examples. When talking to the delegation, use examples of people who are affected by the issue. It is also helpful for the delegation to have an anecdote when speaking on the floor.

The 45th district will have a new delegate. Pat suggests a CoA member go see this person and explain what the aging issues are. Scheduling appointments with the remaining delegates in the delegation is also suggested. The earlier you meet with them the better because as they approach the January deadline of the session things get more and more chaotic. It is also helpful to talk to anyone anywhere in the rest of the state who can talk to their delegate about aging issues and share the NVAN materials with them.

III. **Minutes Approval:** Unanimously approved with following corrections to page three item seven report was provided by Maimoona rather than no report. In members absent mark Erica Wood rather than present. In the Senior Centers committee reports, page three remove “legal discussion” and replace with “the County’s Michael Peter will discuss senior center fundraising at ASAC’s May meeting.”

IV. **Chair’s Report** (Joan McDermott)

- Older Virginian’s month: Began in 1963. Commission members read aloud the Governor’s resolution. Erica Wood noted the last word in the resolution says “citizens”, and would like it to say “residents”. Joan indicated she will send a note to the Governor.
- NVAN: Will meet tomorrow to select priorities for 2016.
- Culpepper Garden: Received letter from the Advisory Board thanking the Commission for their support the County provides.
- Helen McMahan Award: was honored by the school board for a mentoring and tutoring program where older adults are the mentors.
- AARP Livability Index – Arlington is rated very highly, in the category for cities with a population of 100K to 500K: Madison, WI is ranked number one; St Paul, MN is number two. Arlington is number six and ranked number one for healthiest.
- Lois Van Valkenburgh Award: Joan attended award ceremony in Alexandria for Mitch Opalski last week.
- Creative Aging: Art therapy will be held on May 26th from 1-2:30pm in the DHS Auditorium. Miki Goerdt, ADSD Clinician and Art therapist will present. Laurie will post link on Facebook.

V. **Director/Staff Report** (Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield)

- 50th Anniversary: Medicare, Social Security and the Older American’s Act. The Older American’s Act needs to be reauthorized.
- Behavioral Healthcare Division and Public Health: Are moving to the Sequoia campus. Around 300 staff are expected to be a part of this transition. There is adequate parking to accommodate the staff and customers.
- CoA directory: Sent by email on Friday. This is sensitive information. Asked Commissioners to email with preference for contact information.
- CarFit Event: Manor Care will host event in their parking lot on June 12th. This is a free event for older adults to enhance their car safety. There will be occupational therapists available to conduct a safety evaluation and make recommendations.

- Job Announcement: There will be a full time Management Analyst position posted this Friday and run through May 28th. This position will support the Commission, will have contract management and outreach and community engagement.
- Senior Information Fair: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield participated. It was held at the Lomax Baptist Church on Saturday, May 2nd. A variety of services and vendors participated. Open to the public, this event was organized by a number of historically African American churches to earn about aging resources in the community. Each vendor gave a presentation.
- N4A Letter: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield is the recipient of the AAA 2015 Aging Achievement award in the category of livable communities for the development of the Aging Information Exchange for long-term care communities. The award will be given in July at the N4A Conference in Philadelphia. Valerie Crotty commented that the presentation given by Ms. Bah-Duckenfield at the Belvedere was well received and has generated some interest in the CoA.

VI. **Division Chief's Report** (Glenda Blake):

- N4A Conference: Staff will present at the N4A conference in Philadelphia on the "Aging without Bars" program.
- New Bureau Chief for IDDS: LeVoyce Reed will begin June 18th.
- Culpepper Garden: Is in process of hiring a new executive director.

****5 minute Exercise break led by James Feaster

VII. **Committee Reports**

- Budget (Mitch Opalski): No report
- Legislative (Joan McDermott): Met last Monday and discussed brainstorming for NVAN. County Board Chairwoman Mary Hynes sent letter to CoA for input on legislation items for 2016. Thursday, May 21 is call in day to senators and congressmen to ask for the Older Americans Act to be reauthorized.
- Membership (Linc Cummings): The board will appoint a new member tomorrow evening.
- Public Information and Outreach (Gordon Hasenei): Considering feasibility of creating PSA's with local TV channel.
- New Media/Technology (Laurie Young): Posted links for Older American's Month and activities. Invited members to like the page and visit it often.
- Senior Centers (Andrea Walker): Committee met last Thursday at Langston Brown. Restroom door issue has been addressed. A new recommendation was made to address intermittent gas odor which affects lower level where the senior programs are located.
- Strategic Planning (Joan McDermott): Next month AARP will present its network of age friendly community programs based on WHO checklist of needs for age friendly cities. This will be the focus to replace the Elder Readiness Implementation Plan from 2007. Announced upcoming Joint Commission meeting on June 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm in Conference Rm. D. At this meeting, the outreach committees from CoA and LTCR will share their presentations. Passed around potluck sign in sheet.
- Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood): Assistive Technology funded by the Alliance presentation will be at Walter Reed on June 19th by ADSD staff: Nancy Connors and Rachel Sparico. The committee will meet on May 26th to discuss affordable housing study and finalize statement and position.
- Transportation (Cragg Hines): Tomorrow NV rides will provide a presentation. Next meeting is June 30 at 1pm with a presentation by County Board Chairwoman, Mary Hynes about I-66.

Laurie Young commented that she assisted a woman with transportation after she did not get picked up by Metro Access AAA will follow up with a contact person to lodge a complaint.

VIII. **Liaison/Meetings Reports**

- Alexandria Commission on Aging (Mitch Opalski): Provided an update on the PACE program and expressed a desire for them to present in Arlington at a CoA meeting. PACE is now accepting Arlington residents and processed their first application in Arlington. The Alexandria CoA is trying to avoid brick sidewalks going forward. They were made aware of the upcoming assistive technology presentation.
- Alliance for Senior Programs (Nort Beckerman): Developed a series of programs in the community to get better recognition for their activities and events/outreach. Arlington Mills senior center is doing a pickleball anniversary event and beginning a cooking program by Virginia Cooperative Extension focused on nutrition. On June 27th, the US Army string quartet will play at Kenmore.
- Arlington Interfaith Council (Joan McDermott): No report.
- Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) (Patricia Sullivan): Continuing to expand services around 100 members now. Need to work on infrastructure to support expansion. Renewals have begun. Their anniversary celebration will be held on June 4th.
- Community Development Citizens Advisory Council (CDCAC) (Linc Cummings): Evaluating nonprofit proposals and RFPs for services for Arlingtonians in need.
- Arlington Community Facilities Study (Mitch Opalski): Info meetings are winding down, had breakfast with Vice Chair. They will send something soon for input.
- Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Valerie Crotty): Meet next Monday and focus will be tunnel at Rosslyn metro.
- Long-Term Care Residences Commission (Nels Andersen): Met on 13th with a presentation on EMS successfully reducing the number of 911 calls however, facing an increase in mental health related calls. Chair asked for legislative suggestions. Lynwood Sinnamon was recognized and will be ending his term with the Commission at the end of this month.
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Jim Feaster): Still focused on width of sidewalks and where outdoor restaurant seating positions its chairs in such a way to prevent passage.
- Steering Committee/Older Persons (Lena Wang): Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) and Alexandria's AHA presented. Many questions surrounding how do we allow people to participate who do not have the means to cover cost of participation. Discussed how the ANV scholarship program is limited. Also, people in northern Arlington apartments are very interested in the villages.
- Senior Adult Council (Andrea Walker): Gold pass will begin in September. It provides full access to County gyms rather than limited access and will cost an additional \$40. Walter Reed interviews were completed with a possible candidate identified. Aurora Hills is looking for a new director, the position will close this Thursday.
- TRIAD (Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield): On hold.
- Transit Advisory Committee (Fran DeSilva): Sent a report. Committee met on May 12th about geocortex for transit data. Discussed fire on metro between Foggy Bottom and Rosslyn. ART house construction will be starting, bus barn. Accessibility subcommittee discussed STAR rider guide.
- Vertical Village (Mitch Opalski): No report.

IX. **Presentation** - Ingrid Morroy – Commissioner of the Revenue - Previous commissioner mishandled not the tax relief program but the section 8 program. When customers receive a bill, they go to the

treasurer's office not to DHS. Individuals see a stigma attached to working with DHS rather than working with the Treasurer's office. Since 2004 the Treasurer's office has made an effort to coordinate and build relationships with other departments. This office gets part of its funding from the state. That funding is dependent on services provided to the community. The office will get an additional \$25K if this service is done by the Commissioner's office. Right now, the County gets no reimbursement from the state for this program. Also, the office has as strong customer service orientation. The relationship with the Treasurer's office can enhance the program by providing additional information to tax payers. Many customers need other services besides tax relief and the Treasurer's office will provide transportation to DHS for individuals. Ingrid's goal is to expand the tax relief program by increasing the number of people who qualify who will actually receive the services.

Questions and responses:

1. **Question** (Mitch Opalski): – thanks for the pro's, what do you think are the cons?

Response: The only con is my advocacy might increase the number of clients in the program; this should be part of the aging in place process.

2. **Question** (Patricia Sullivan): – talk about the capacity of your office to help people through the application process?

Response: We have a customer advocate and all staff have been trained in how to deal with individuals on financial process issues. We have tax auditors, people who help with state income taxes.

3. **Question** (Nels Andersen): The current income level is about \$99K, it represents about 4.4M loss to the County Board, will qualifying limits remain the same, be raised or lowered? Will caps be preserved or changed?

Response: Not for lowering the limits, we should look at cost of living and inflation. It is possible the limits should be increased. The policy sits with the board or the state, but I will lobby for something I believe in.

4. **Question:** (Cragg Hines): How do we make this happen?

Response: Talk to the County Board members. \$4.4M increase of \$4M due to expanded use, but put the budget for the program in the housing fund because it matches the topic.

X. **New Business:** STAR Rider Guide Propose Revision Updates - Judith Howerton - Arlington Transit Intern The goal is to comply with new federal regulations and improve scheduling, Also to increase more rides on STAR. For pick up procedures – currently they offer curb to curb service but want to change it to door to door service. Normal pick up window is 0 – 10 minutes, want to make the window 15 minutes instead of 10. Expect riders to be ready 15 minutes before the scheduled pick up. Drivers will only wait for 5 minutes, but will call 5 minutes ahead of time to alert person to come out. This matches the Metro policy. To cancel a ride individuals must call the STAR office ahead of time now. Now the standing order trip requests must remain unchanged for a month. A physician's note is no longer required to request a reasonable accommodation. There is a meeting on Thursday that will be a detailed discussion of these changes.

XI. **Announcements and Public Comment:**

- Valerie attended the voting machine open house, and Cragg already used the new voting machine. Cragg was uncertain whether at the end he ever received a prompt saying is this how you intend to vote?
- Elder program Auction
- American Society on Aging – recommend Arlington site visits for conference in March 2016
- AARP is having a job fair for seniors on May 26th

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