



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING

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**Meeting Summary
December 19, 2016**

PRESENT: Mitch Opalski, Erica Wood, Carl Brooks, Valerie Crotty, Senator Barbara Favola, Jim Feaster, Cragg Hines, Mary Ann Johnson, Lynwood Sinnamon, Patricia Sullivan, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Laurie Young

EXCUSED: Gordon Hasenei, Pamela Hawkins, Sophie Shen

STAFF: Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Jim Baker, Rachel Sparico

GUESTS: Gwendolyn Beck, Mary Belanich, Jennifer Collins, Elizabeth Dakin, Tom Furlong, Hershel Kanter, Anne Peret, Joan McDermott, Carolyn Westhaver

I. Call to Order and Welcome at 9:06 a.m.

II. Arlington Transit Programs Impacting Older Adults – Larry Filler, Bureau Chief of Arlington County Commuter Services and Steve Yaffe, Transit Services Manager

See presentation attached. Additional resources may be accessed at [Commuter Page](#), [CarFreeNearMe](#), [CarFreeAtoZ](#), and [CommuterDirect](#). In addition to transit options, Arlington offers a variety of options for walking and biking and is a Gold-level Walk Friendly Community and a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community. Mr. Yaffe shared updates proposed for the [STAR program](#); significant changes focus on 1) Scheduling Productivity – lengthening the pick-up window, 2) Scheduling Efficiency and Communication – procure a new STAR call center to include new scheduling software and communications ability, 3) Scheduling Flexibility – taxi subsidy program, and 4) Passenger Assistance – door-to-door service. There was a discussion about online apps such as [Transit](#), how to best engage older adults about transportation options and needs, pedestrian safety, and the impact of legislation.

III. Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Chair's Report

Mitch Opalski

- a. County Manager budget meeting with Commission Chairs – Mr. Opalski and Ms. Wood attended a meeting with the County Manager (CM) about the FY 2018 budget; two areas of need are the Metro and Arlington Public Schools.
- b. COA Annual Report to the County Board – Mr. Opalski thanked the Committee Chairs for submitting summaries of their committees' work throughout the year and will share a compiled copy once it is complete before submitting to the County Board (CB).
- c. Vacancies – please let Mr. Opalski know if you are willing to serve in any of these vacant roles:
 - Membership Committee Chair
 - Co-Liaison for Alexandria COA
 - Community Development Citizens Advisory Council

- Steering Committee/Older Persons – Gwendolyn Beck, VHC, will represent the Commission in this capacity.

V. Staff Reports

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

- a. ADSD Staff report
 - i. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield highlighted handouts from each Commissioners' packets which include:
 - Arlington County updates on [Polling Places](#) and [Short-term rentals](#).
 - Updates on the Virginia Governor's Proposed [Budget](#).
 - The Community Engagement Forum on Aging Issues is scheduled for **Monday, March 20th, 2017 at Arlington Central Library**.
 - Save the Date: the 2017 Virginia Governor's [Conference on Aging](#), scheduled for May 22-23, 2017 in Roanoke, VA.
 - Arlington County Secret Santa program is still accepting donated gift cards and monetary donations; for more information visit [Secret Santa](#).
- b. Budget (Jim Baker) shared the County continues to prepare for the 2018 Budget, FY2018 [Budget guidance](#) is available on the County website. Mr. Baker reports any anticipated gaps will be determined following a review of property tax assessments. The biggest concerns are Metro and Schools.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Budget** (Mitch Opalski) – See ADSD staff report.
- b. **Legislative** (Laurie Young) – Ms. Young shared updates from meetings with local elected officials to promote the NVAN platform. The Committee met with Delegate Alfonso Lopez, Delegate Rip Sullivan, and Senator Barbara Favola. All legislative meetings may be found on the calendar of events. Senator Favola shared updates on proposed legislation that she will introduce: three paid sick days for home health care workers and aides, a geriatric track for medical schools and medical practitioners, and others. Senator Favola also suggested partnering with an elected official from southwest Virginia to introduce the Long-term Care Ombudsman legislation.
- Membership** (Vacant) – No report.
- c. **Public Information & Outreach** (Gordon Hasenei) – Mr. Hasenei shared his report electronically and mentioned the ADSD outreach committee reached 3,400 people through more than 45 events. The Aging Matters radio show will be a featured Beacon Bit and the committee will work on developing a PSA for services and resources for older adults. The committee needs additional members.
- d. **New Media/Technology** (Laurie Young) – Ms. Young is posting weekly and encourages Commissioners to visit the page and “Like” posts. Recent posts include pictures from meetings with elected officials.
- e. **Senior Centers** (Lynwood Sinnamon) – Mr. Sinnamon shared the committee still needs a representative to this Commission and Jennifer Collins shared the group will push for a volunteer at their January meeting. Mr. Sinnamon also shared an update on Langston-Brown, and the Department of Parks and Recreation recognition of volunteers.
- f. **Strategic Planning** (Mitch Opalski) – Mr. Opalski reported members of this committee and Ms. Bah-Duckenfield met with Mr. Dorsey about the Age-Friendly initiative. This Commission made a recommendation that this initiative would be executed out of the County Manager's Office. The committee also discussed and voted to support a merger with the Long-term care Commission.
- g. **Supportive Services and Housing** (Erica Wood) – Ms. Wood reports the November meeting featured a presentation on the proposed Short-term rental regulations. The

December meeting will feature a year-end discussion, which includes Assistive Technology and realtor outreach.

- h. **Transportation** (Cragg Hines) – See Presentation. Mr. Hines shared the next meeting will occur in February.

EXERCISE BREAK

VII. Liaison Reports

- a. **Alexandria Commission on Aging** (Mitch Opalski) – No report.
- b. **Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs** (Doug Frost) – No report.
- c. **Interchurch Community Health Initiative** (Pamela Hawkins) – See Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) report.
- d. **Disability Advisory Commission** (Mary Ann Johnson) – Ms. Johnson reports the group continues discussing the MetroAccess application process which is impacted by lack of access to medical providers.
- e. **Arlington Neighborhood Village** (Patricia Sullivan) – Ms. Sullivan reports highlights and provided the ANV Impact report.
- f. **Community Development Citizens Advisory Council** (Vacant) – No report.
- g. **Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission** (Valerie Crotty) – Ms. Crotty mentioned the importance of preparedness especially with inclement weather.
- h. **Long-term Care Residences Commission** (Erica Wood) – See Old Business.
- i. **Pedestrian Advisory Committee** (Jim Feaster) – Mr. Feaster reports the committee made recommendations for the FY 2018 proposed budget.
- j. **Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group** (Patricia Sullivan) – Ms. Sullivan shared the history of this group appointed by the County Board to review the Real Estate Tax Relief (RETR) program following recommendations by the Affordable Housing Master Plan. The [RETR Working Group](#) continues to learn about the program and discuss topics such as: deferments; reverse mortgages; outreach; impact on revenue; and case studies. The group is studying participation in the program, income limits and assets, other people in the household, and where the program should be housed: DHS or the Commissioner of Revenue. Senator Favola recommends that if the program were to leave DHS that additional screening occur to assess the need for services. Ms. Sullivan reports the group is compiling their recommendations and will hold a Public Forum in late-February. She will present the information to this Commission and ask for guidance at the January meeting. Chair Opalski made a motion to form an ad-hoc task force to discuss and digest these issues leading to the presentation to the full COA in January. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Volunteers for this group were Commissioners Opalski, Johnson, Villanigro-Santiago, Brooks, and community member Hershel Kanter.
- k. **Senior Adult Council** (Vacant) – Mr. Sinnamon continues to work with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) about appointing a representative. Jennifer Collins will followup with the Council in January on designating a COA representative. Ms. Collins reports their programs are fully staffed and provided an update on the Senior Center renovations: Aurora Hills is currently closed for renovations and programs have been moved to Gunston, with plans to return to Aurora Hills in May. The lease at Culpepper Garden expires in December 2016 and nearly all programs have been relocated. The group received 84 RSVPs for the New Year's Eve party (25 are participants in the congregate meal program). The DPR fee reduction policy which offers discounted prices for programs and centers, has recently been extended to day trips.

- I. **Steering Committee/Older Persons** (Vacant) – The November 18th meeting featured Marsha Greenfield from LeadingAge and Mark Gottlieb from the Gottlieb Institute. The January meeting will focus on Affordable Housing. Gwendolyn Beck, Virginia Hospital Center’s Senior Health and Lifeline programs’ Assistant Manager, will be the new liaison to the Steering Committee.
- m. **Transit Advisory Committee** (Hershel Kanter) – See presentation above.
- n. **Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC)** (Joan McDermott) – Ms. McDermott reported on the website update, [CIAC website](#), and outcomes from the Conversation Sabbath. Interchurch Community Health Initiative (ICHI) will host an advanced care workshop titled “Mom/Dad, we need to talk” at St. John’s Church in February 2017. Nancy Conners, DPR/ADSD is leading “Conversations about End of Life” with the next presentation scheduled for 1pm on January 27th at Walter Reed.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Short-term rental Ordinance – Mr. Opalski provided an update on short-term rentals which was approved by the County Board. The Board authorized an advertisement to consider allowing accessory homestay in units used by either the owner or a renter as his/her primary dwelling, and to consider removing the limitation on the number of contracts per night. The Planning Commission will consider these additional amendments on January 17, 2017 and the County Board will consider them on January 28, 2017.
- b. Merge of Long-term Care (LTC) Residences Commission with CoA – Mr. Opalski shared the Strategic Planning committee met to discuss the proposed partnership between both Commissions. These proposals will be discussed at the January COA meeting.

IX. New Business

- a. Ms. Beck shared a list of upcoming events offered by Virginia Hospital Center.

X. Announcements and Public Comment

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Opalski wished everyone Happy Holidays! The meeting concluded at 11:05 am.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 23, 2017 at DHS