



## COMMISSION ON AGING

c/o Agency on Aging, DHS

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### MEETING SUMMARY

March 24, 2014

Approved at the April 21, 2014 meeting.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lincoln Cummings, Gordon Hasenei, Cragg Hines, Joan McDermott, Donald Miller, Mitchell Opalski, Erica Wood, Laurie Young
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Molly Davis, Kristi Dudash\*, Sheila Hess\*, Patrick Hope\*, Thomas Kerwin, Andrea Walker\*, Lena Wang\* \*Excused absence
- STAFF:** Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield, Glenda Blake, Meredith Eisenhart, Aaron Kocian, Susan Lane

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. after the Public Hearing.

#### I. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** Unanimously approved the minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting as presented.

#### II. Consideration of the Proposed FY 2015 Area Plan for Aging Services, including Fee Scale Waiver Request, and Proposed County Budget

**FY 2015 Proposed Area Plan and County Budget Discussion:** The following items were discussed for inclusion in the Commission on Aging's letter to the County Board regarding the proposed FY 2015 budget:

- **Automatic Bathroom Door Openers at Senior Centers:** All of the senior centers are ADA compliant. This suggestion goes beyond ADA requirements and has been on the Senior Center Committee recommendations list for several years. Automatic bathroom door openers would benefit people in wheelchairs, frail persons and anyone pushing a stroller, for example. Ms. Johnson will be contacted to find out the cost of installing one. As Arlington Mill already has a bathroom with an automatic door opener, the CoA decided to request equity for the other centers, recognizing that this might occur over several years.  
**MOTION:** The motion was approved with seven in favor and one abstention that the CoA will endorse having at least one automatic bathroom door opener in every senior center.
- **Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV):** At the public hearing, Ms. Carol Paquette asked the CoA to support ANV's request to the County Board for one-time funding of \$30,000 in FY 2015 to enable them to hire a full-time Executive Director to manage volunteers, develop relationships with other service providers, and engage in community outreach. Their current budget would allow for only a ¼-time person. They expect to have a

**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.**

sufficient membership base to pay for a full-time Executive Director from their own budget without county help by next year. Discussion points included: whether or not this could be funded without cutting services for older adults, whether ANV has its non-profit status yet, and whether or not ANV has a business plan to show how they will accomplish this. It was noted the CoA's letter to the County Board supports the ANV in both "concept and implementation." The CoA decided to support this request provided the funding can come from surplus funds, not by cutting costs allocated to services for older adults.

**MOTION:** The motion was approved with seven in favor and one abstention that the CoA supports the Arlington Neighborhood Village's one-time FY 2015 funding request for \$30,000 to hire an Executive Director, provided the money can be allocated from surplus funds not department budget.

- **Transportation Fare Increases:** At the Public Hearing, Mr. Yaffe noted that some ART and STAR fares are increasing to bring them in line with current costs after several years of not changing, while WMATA was steadily raising fares. Regular ART fares are to increase \$.25 from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per trip. For seniors and persons with a disability, the ART fare will increase \$.10, from \$.75 to \$.85. While STAR Zones 2 and 3 had fare increases last year, STAR Zone 1, inside Arlington, did not. This year the proposed increase for STAR Zone 1 is from \$3.00 to \$3.50. After discussion and notation that the people who cannot afford this have subsidy options, the CoA decided to endorse these changes.

**MOTION:** The motion was approved unanimously that the CoA endorses the ART and STAR Zone 1 fare increases proposed in the FY 2015 budget.

- **Wi-Fi at the Lee and Madison Centers:** The Lee and Madison Senior Centers are the only ones where Wi-Fi is not available. The CoA expressed concern that all Senior Centers should offer equitable services. These two centers are now on the DPR list to get Wi-Fi over the next two fiscal years.

**MOTION:** The motion was unanimously approved that the CoA supports the installation of Wi-Fi at the Lee and Madison Senior Centers.

- **Other:**
  - The CoA will thank the County Board for responding to requests supported by the CoA last year, such as the one-time grant to Culpepper Garden over three years, three years of support to the Vertical Village pilot, and the provision of four hours of free parking at the new Arlington Mill Senior Center. Appreciation will also be expressed that ADSD has no program cuts in the FY 2015 budget.
  - The County Board's budget public hearing is on March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

After the above discussions and decisions on items to include in letter to the County Board about the proposed FY 2015 budget (including the Area Plan for Aging Services), the following motion was approved:

**MOTION:** The motion was unanimously approved that the Commission on Aging endorses the proposed FY 2015 Area Plan for Aging Services.

The Commission on Aging's endorsement of the FY 2015 Area Plan for Aging Services will be communicated to the Virginia Division for the Aging (VDA) in the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) as part of the submission of the Area Plan for Aging Services.

**FY 2015 Proposed Fee Scale Waiver:**

Ms. Bah-Duckenfield distributed and described the fee scale waiver that Arlington requests annually from DARS/VDA for programs using state funds. These waivers are requested because costs are so much higher in Arlington than in the rest of the state.

**MOTION:** The motion was unanimously approved that the Commission on Aging endorses the proposed FY 2015 fee scale waiver request.

III. **Old Business: None.**

IV. **New Business: None.**

V. **Announcements:**

- ✓ Ms. McDermott passed around the Arlington magazine, which had two articles of interest: One on walking and bicycling mentioned to the Transportation Committee by Mr. Miller and one on how CoA member, Mr. Kerwin and his wife have modified their apartment for wheelchair accommodations so they could age in place.
- ✓ There is a bus tour of CDBG sites on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00 – 8:15 p.m., starting and ending at Court House Plaza.
- ✓ Ms. McDermott recommended the movie “Nebraska.”

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.