



ARLINGTON COMMISSION ON AGING
c/o Agency on Aging, DHS
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Meeting Summary October 17, 2016

PRESENT: Mitch Opalski, Erica Wood, Carl Brooks, Valerie Crotty, Jim Feaster, Gordon Hasenei, Pamela Hawkins, Cragg Hines, Mary Ann Johnson, Sophie Shen, Lynwood Sinnamon, Patricia Sullivan, Martha Villanigro-Santiago, Laurie Young

EXCUSED: Barbara Favola

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

GUESTS: Jim Morris, John Guthrie (Department of Parks and Recreation)

I. Call to Order and Welcome at 9:04 a.m.

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Chair's Report

Mitch Opalski

- a. Welcome New Members – Mr. Opalski welcomed the new Commissioners: Carl Brooks, Sophie Shen, Lynwood Sinnamon, and Martha Villanigro-Santiago who each provided a brief introduction of themselves. Commissioners introduced themselves and provided an overview of their role on the Commission and committees.
- b. Various committees need additional support – particularly Membership, Nominating (minimum two persons), and Budget
- c. County Board Liaison Christian Dorsey hosted a breakfast for all Commission Chairs and Mr. Opalski mentioned the structure of the Sports Commission that hosts a committee with their own charter under the auspices of the Sports Commission; which may serve as an example for a future partnership with the Long-Term care commission. This Commission will continue discussions with the LTC commission.

IV. Staff Reports

Maimoona Bah-Duckenfield

- a. ADSD Staff report
 - i. Ms. Bah-Duckenfield celebrated recent Outreach events like the Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults and the Beacon Expo, and highlighted handouts from Commissioners' packets which include:
 1. Caregivers' Conference, Friday, November 11th from 8am-4pm at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria VA 22302
 2. Legislative Forum on Aging Issues on Monday, November 14th from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.
 - ii. Arlington Weaves, Etc. (formerly Woodmont Weavers) Open House at their new location is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 from 11am – 1pm at 2110 Washington Blvd. (Sequoia campus) Suite 302.

- iii. October 1st is the World Health Organizations' International Day of Older Persons "Take a Stand against Ageism", more information can be located at http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/.
 - b. Budget (Jim Baker) shared the County is in the early stages of preparation for the 2018 Budget cycle. He reports no significant budget cuts have been shared. More information will be shared at future meetings.
 - i. State budget – DARS has been targeted with a 3-million-dollar budget cut and it is not anticipated to impact Arlington County older adults. Staff will follow closely for updates.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Budget (Mitch Opalski) – See ADSD staff report.
- b. Legislative (Laurie Young) – Ms. Young shared highlights from the NVAN Breakfast on September 26th, which unveiled the 2017 State Legislative priorities as well as the background. Follow up meetings with State legislators will be scheduled in upcoming months, then in January the group will visit legislators in Richmond. The Legislative Forum will be held at the Fairlington Community Center on Monday, November 14th; Senator Barker and Ebbin, and Representative Sullivan, Hope and Herring have RSVP'd. Ms. Crotty mentioned that she would like to see absentee voting.
- c. Membership (Vacant) – No report.
- d. Public Information & Outreach (Gordon Hasenei) – Mr. Hasenei would like to change the next meeting to November 15th (the 8th is Election Day). He provided an overview of the Beacon Expo which was relocated to the Springfield Town Center and had an attendance of roughly 1,000 people. The committee is developing a cell phone sticker and Mr. Hasenei will bring samples to the next meeting.
- e. New Media/Technology (Laurie Young) – Ms. Young is posting weekly and encourage Commissioners to visit the page and "Like".
- f. Senior Centers (Jim Feaster) – Mr. Feaster reports Aurora Hills is undergoing renovations and Culpepper Garden activities will transfer to Lubber Run and Gunston. Mr. Sinnamon will step in to serve in this role.
- g. Strategic Planning (Mitch Opalski) – Mr. Opalski reports Ms. Sullivan is drafting the Age-Friendly application and she plans to attend the Livability Communities conference in Chicago scheduled for October 18-19, 2016.
- h. Supportive Services and Housing (Erica Wood) – Ms. Wood reports the committee met on September 27th with a guest speaker Mary Lee Anderson, the Director of Senior Services of Alexandria. The next meeting will host Don Ryan from Rebuilding Together. The committee continues to make strides in the realtor project.
- i. Transportation (Cragg Hines) – Mr. Hines shared the committee meets quarterly and takes field trips. The committee is discussing Car-free Arlington and will explore "Where do seniors want to go?" but transportation is not currently available. Ms. Crotty mentioned the isolation of seniors who do not drive. Share ideas with Mr. Hines.

BREAK

VI. Liaison Reports

- a. Alexandria Commission on Aging (Mitch Opalski) – No report.
- b. Alliance for Arlington Senior Programs (Vacant) – Mr. Beckerman resigned and a new chair, Doug Frost, has been elected.

- c. Interchurch Community Health Initiative (Pamela Hawkins) – No report.
- d. Disability Advisory Commission (Mary Ann Johnson) – No report.
- e. Arlington Neighborhood Village (Patricia Sullivan) – Ms. Sullivan reports the Open House event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25 at 6pm at the NRECA building.
- f. Community Development Citizens Advisory Council (Vacant) – No report.
- g. Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Valerie Crotty) – No report.
- h. Long-term Care Residences Commission (Erica Wood) – See Chair’s report.
- i. Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Jim Feaster) – No report.
- j. Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group (Patricia Sullivan) – Ms. Sullivan reports the committee is breaking in to sub-groups to target work on specific issues.
- k. Senior Adult Council (Vacant) – No report.
- l. Steering Committee/Older Persons (Vacant) – The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 18th at 9:30am.
- m. Transit Advisory Committee (Hershel Kanter) – No report.
- n. Coalition to Improve Advanced Care (CIAC) (Joan McDermott) – Ms. McDermott submitted a written report to Mr. Opalski. As part of the Conversation Sabbath a clergy workshop was held in September at Cherrydale Baptist Church. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 24th at 3pm at the Halquist Center.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

- a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – Mr. Hines in his capacity as nominating committee chair presented the slate of Mitch Opalski for Chair and Erica Wood as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. Remarks from New Chair – Mr. Opalski thanked the Commission for an additional year as Chair and shared that he looks forward to another productive year.

IX. Announcements and Public Comment

Mr. Morris highlighted upcoming AARP events at the Arlington Central Library: October 20 on Life Reimagined: Discovering Your New Life Possibilities and November 9 on Prepare to Care: A Workshop for Caregivers.

X. Closed Session – Presentation on Legal Requirements of Advisory Councils – Kevin P. Black – Arlington Assistant County Attorney

XI. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 11:14 am.

Next meeting: Monday, November 21, 2016 at DHS Auditorium
Topic: Arlington Public Health’s Community Health Assessment