

**Alexandria Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**April 8, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:** Babs Waters, Victoria Almquist, Mary Lee Anderson, Ray Biegun, Asfaha Beyene, William Campbell, Marjorie Conner, Barbara D’Agostino, Lynette Foster, Barbara Huelat, Michael Kamin, David Kaplan, Michael Kreps; Jim Lindsay, Del Pepper, Michael Schuster, Denise Mackie-Smith, Lois Steele

**Members Excused:** Ellen Nelson, Katherine Seifu

**Liaisons Present:** Vanessa Greene, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Anne Coyne, St. Martins Senior Center; Margaret Orlando, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Torrance, Police Department; Darrell Wesley, ADSC

**Staff Members Present:** Terri Lynch, Debbie Ludington, and Pamela Austin and, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Emilia Turcios, Workforce Dev. Center; Christine Mayeur, T & ES

**Guests Present:** Canek Aquirre, Anthem Health Care / City Council; Geoffrey Caldwell, Econ. Opportunities Commission; Nicolas Joseph and Tom Reiter, PACEPaul Nasto, My Home Companion; Bob Eiffert and Charles Bailey, COA Housing Committee; Natasha Walters, Brandycare

1. **Call to Order.** Ms. Waters called the November meeting of the Commission on Aging (“COA”) to order at 4:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The March 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Welcome Guests.** Ms. Waters welcomed guests and introduced COA members.
5. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Ms. Waters introduced Sgt. Ian Torrance, who joined the COA meeting on behalf of the Alexandria Police Department. Sgt. Torrance responded to inquiries regarding a recent shooting, police pursuit procedures, a recent death, patterns in calls from seniors, and drag racing.
6. **Special Presentation.** Ms. Waters introduced Christine Mayeur, the Program Manager for the Complete Streets Program. Ms. Mayeur provided an overview of her office and duties. She then provided a history and goals of the complete streets movement. Ms. Mayeur explained how her office is achieving those goals using a data-driven process. She then responded to questions from Commissioners.
7. **Executive Committee Report.** Materials previously distributed.

8. **Discussion and Action Items**

- a. *DASH Update.* Ms. Waters asked Mr. Kaplan to update the COA on the developments with DASH service. Mr. Kaplan explained current fiscal challenges, grants, and potential rider fee changes. Councilmember Pepper summarized a recent City Council discussion regarding DASH. Mr. Kaplan responded to inquiries from Commissioners.
- b. *Nominating Committee.* Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Anderson were nominated to serve on the nominating committee tasked with nominating COA officers. After discussion, the nominations were approved.
- c. *Dantzig Memorial.* Mr. Kaplan informed the COA that the Executive Committee is reviewing options to create a memorial for former Commissioner Sharon Dantzig.
- d. *Racial and Social Equity Statement.* Ms. Waters asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to write a racial and social equity statement for the COA. Ms. Mackie-Smith volunteered to chair the committee, and Ms. King and Ms. Almquist volunteered to join the committee. After discussion, the nominations were approved.
- e. *Zoom Protocols.* Ms. Almquist reviewed proposed Zoom protocols for the COA and solicited feedback.

9. **Liaison Reports.**

- a. *Commission for Women.* Ms. Waters stated that there would be an event on sexual assault response on April 13, 2021, at 7 pm.
- b. *AHA.* Mr. Eiffert reported on certain fundraising activities in connection with Spring2ACTion.
- c. *AARP.* Mr. Eiffert reported on a program to retro-fit homes.
- d. *St. Martins Senior Center.* Materials previously distributed. Ms. Coyne reported on the Walking Club and other activities.
- e. *Senior Center at Charles Houston.* Materials previously distributed.
- f. *Senior Services of Alexandria.* Materials previously distributed.
- g. *Alexandria Commission on Employment.* Ms. Anderson reported on an upcoming meeting.
- h. *Successful Aging.* Ms. Orlando stated that they are starting registration for summer classes.
- i. *Alexandria Adult Day Services Center.* Materials previously distributed.

- j. *Human Rights Commission.* Ms. Foster reported on the most recent meeting of the Commission.
- k. *Division of Aging and Adult Services.* Ms. Lynch reported on vacancies at the agency and recruitment efforts.
- l. *INOVA Alexandria Hospital.*
- m. *Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, AHAAC, Bill Harris* – see attached.

10. **Committee Updates.**

- a. *Housing.* Mr. Schuster summarized discussions about affordable housing at the most recent meeting. **Materials previously distributed.**
- b. *Transportation.* **Materials previously distributed.**
- c. *Economic Development.* Ms. Anderson reported on new goals, including how the COA can advocate for expansion of SNAP benefits in the senior population. **Materials previously distributed.**
- d. *Health/Dementia Friendly.* Ms. Conner reported on efforts to connect seniors to broadband for telehealth purposes and on an upcoming dementia training.

11. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Minutes will be presented at the May 13, 2021 meeting for approval.

*Minutes prepared by Michael Kreps, COA Secretary.*

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