

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING AGENDA

Virtual Meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2021; 4pm

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, this meeting is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. All members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through a Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at a location to be determined. Electronic access will be provided in either event. The meeting can be accessed by the public through the Zoom link or phone number provided below. Public comment will be received at the meeting. Public comments can also be sent to daas@alexandriava.gov in advance of the meeting. Please indicate that your comments are for a meeting related to the Alexandria Commission on Aging in the subject line. A recording will be made of this meeting.

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Vq0LkPxQuOmt1DgON4WjQ

Meeting ID: 935 7751 7116

Password: 251935

Phone In number: 301-715-8592

MEMBERS: Please read through the Agenda and have available for reference at the meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome guests
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of March 2021 minutes
5. Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report – Sgt. Ian Torrance
6. Special Presentation: Christine Mayeur, Complete Streets Program Manager
7. Executive Committee Report– see attached
8. Discussion / Action Items
 - A. Age Friendly Plan update
 - B. Zoom Protocols
 - C. Committee to write Racial and Social Equity Statement for COA
 - D. Appointment of Nominating Committee
 - E. Sharon Dantzig memorial
9. **Liaison Reports - Please provide a written summary to Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov**
 1. Arlington Commission on Aging – Mitch Opalski
 2. Successful Aging – Margaret Orlando
 3. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities – Margaret Orlando
 4. Alexandria Adult Day Services Center, ADSC – Darrell Wesley– see attached
 5. Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, AHAAC – Bill Harris– see attached
 6. Division of Aging and Adult Services – Terri Lynch
 7. INOVA Alexandria Hospital
 8. Human Rights Commission – Lynette Foster
 9. AHA – Bob Eiffert
 10. AARP – Jane King

11. NVAN – Babs Waters / Terri Lynch
12. St. Martins Senior Center – Anne Coyne– see attached
13. Virginia Hospital Center – Kate Chutuape
14. Commission for Women – Katherine Seifu
15. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Katherine Seifu
16. Public Health Advisory Commission
17. Commission on Persons with Disabilities – Michael Kamin
18. Senior Center @ Charles Houston – Vanessa Green– see attached
19. Senior Services of Alexandria – Mary Lee Anderson– see attached
20. Alexandria Commission on Employment, ACE – Mary Lee Anderson
21. Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, NVFPA – Mary Lee Anderson
22. Arlington Legislative Committee – Mary Lee Anderson

10. Committee Updates

1. Housing – Chair, Michael Schuster– see attached
2. Outreach Committee – Co-Chairs, Victoria Almquist and Asfaha Beyene– see attached
3. Transportation – Chair, Ray Biegun– see attached
4. Economic Development – Chair, Mary Lee Anderson– see attached
5. Strategic Planning – Chair, Babs Waters
6. Health /Dementia Friendly Committee – Chair, Marjorie Conner
7. By-Laws – Chair, Michael Kreps
8. Advocacy – ad hoc

11. Other Business

12. New Business

13. Public comments – please limit your comments to 3 minutes

Next Commission Meeting: Virtual Meeting; Thursday, May 13, 2021, 4pm

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Virtual Meeting; Monday, May 3, 2021, 10am

COMMISSION OFFICERS: Babs Waters, Chair
 Victoria Almquist, Vice Chair
 Secretary, Michael Kreps

The business of the Commission on Aging is largely conducted by its committees. ALL COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Please call the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703.746.5999 for more information. In addition, the Commission has official liaisons with several other commissions, organizations or activities.

The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703.746.5999, email DAAS@alexandriava.gov, or use Virginia Relay 711.

Visit the Division of Aging and Adult Services website for Commission on Aging agendas and minutes and other aging information: www.Alexandriava.gov/aging

**Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA)
Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)
Monday, March 29, 2021 10:07 - 11:15 AM**

DRAFT v2 MEETING NOTES

Members Present:

Barbara “Babs” Waters (COA Chair), Victoria Almquist (COA Vice Chair), Mary Lee Anderson, Asfaha Beyene, Raymond “Ray” Biegun, Michael Schuster

Staff Members Present:

Debbie Ludington, Terri Lynch

Guests Present:

Bob Eiffert, Jane King

1. Welcome

2. Call to Order: COA Vice Chair, Victoria Almquist, called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

3. The Agenda was approved.

4. Committee Reports

A.	Economic Development Committee	Mary Lee Anderson, Chair: Last met on March 3; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on April 7.
B.	Outreach Committee	Victoria Almquist & Asfaha Beyene (co-chairs): Last met on March 24; see Committee Meeting Notes. Shared info on the Mayor’s Campaign to End Bullying in Alexandria. Committee Next meeting is on April 28.
C.	Housing Committee	Michael Schuster, Chair: Last met on March 15; see Committee Meeting Notes. Shared info on “The Aspire” senior affordable housing project (see 5.C). Next meeting is on April 19.
D.	Strategic Planning Committee	Babs Waters: All committee chairs are members. The June 2018 Age Friendly Plan covers the years 2019-2021. A new plan is to be completed by June 2021 (for the years 2022-2024).
E.	Transportation Committee	Ray Biegun, Chair: Last met on March 15; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on April 19.
F.	Health/Dementia Friendly Committee	Marjorie K. Conner, Chair. Jane King gave an update on Dementia Friendly. The Dementia Friendly Alexandria Committee met on March 26. The next focus will be outreach to faith-based communities. Will continue to pursue a video by Mark Warner, and will seek input from Don Beyer on his experiences.

5. COA Executive Committee (ExCo) Business Meeting

A.	Presentation	
		None
B.	ExCo Information only	
	(1)	Chair Report.
	(a)	COVID-19 vaccinations – uptick 9% in Alexandria from March 12 – 19. For alerts, text ALEXCOVID19 to 888777 (https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus)

	(b)	The City received \$1.7 million from FEMA to be used to hire staff for future vaccination expansion.
	(c)	By-laws Committee needs to meet to complete by-laws revisions.
	(d)	WDC Position Update: City council will meet on April 17 to review budget add/delete proposals.
(2)		DAAS Staff Report – Terri shared that the city is getting temporary federal funds in support of Adult Protective Services; and that this is a first for federal funding of this service.

C.	ExCo Discussion Items	
(1)		The Aspire: Request for Independent Senior Living Affordable Housing Plan Amendment – the developer is proposing changes. The Housing Committee will have further discussion with the city and the developer at their April 19 meeting.
(2)		WDC Advocacy for city council meeting on April 17, 2021. Additional funding would allow the position to be full-time rather than part time. A full-time position would aid in retention as part-time employees have been leaving for full-time positions elsewhere, which has caused program disruptions.
(3)		Honoring the memory of a former Commission member, Sharon Dantzig, who passed away in February. A committee was formed comprising David Kaplan (Chair), Mary Lee Anderson, Michael Schuster, Jane King, and Alan Dinsmore.
(4)		Committee to write Racial & Social Equity Statement for COA. Victoria Almquist volunteered to participate and write a draft statement. Jane King also volunteered to assist. An announcement will be made at the COA meeting on April 8 to ascertain if other commissioners would be interested in joining this committee.
(5)		COA Nominating Committee: Mary Lee Anderson, Ray Biegun, and David Kaplan volunteered to be part of. This committee would present a slate to the COA in May.
(6)		Recognizing birthdays of COA and Staff members.

D.	COA Action/Decision Items – None.	
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6. Planning for Thursday, April 8, 2021 Commission on Aging Meeting

A.	Presentation	
(1)		Presenter – Christine Mayeur, Alexandria City Complete Streets Program
(2)		Q & A
B.	COA Information only Items	
(1)		Chair Report (a) COVID-19 vaccinations (b) \$1.7 million in FEMA to hire staff for future vaccination expansion
(2)		DAAS Staff Report
C.	COA Discussion only Items	
(1)		City of Alexandria Age Friendly Plan Update. Jane King will be following up with the committee chairs.
(2)		Zoom meeting protocols/etiquette. Victoria volunteered to write a draft. Zoom has created its own set of challenges for participation in the absence of physical face to face meetings.
(3)		Committee to write Racial & Social Equity Statement for COA
D.	COA Decision only Items	
(1)		COA Nominating Committee

7. Planning for future COA meetings

A.	Possible Future Speakers
(1)	May – Jaqueline Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer
(2)	June – TBD
B.	Additional items - Please submit other proposed speakers to babswaters@comcast.net

8. Other Business – None.

9. Announcements

A. Next two (2) COA Executive Committee (ExCo) Meetings

(1)	Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 Time: 10 AM - Noon How: Via Zoom
(2)	Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 (Note: Monday, May 31, 2021, Memorial Day is observed) Time 10 AM - Noon How: Via Zoom

B. Next two (2) COA Monthly Commission Meetings

(1)	Date: Thursday, May13, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM How: Via Zoom
(2)	Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM How: Via Zoom

C. Other Alexandria COA events

	None
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D. Other non-Alexandria COA events

(1)	April 15, 2021 Deadline to request tax relief for the elderly May 17, 2021 New deadline for filing Federal and State Tax Returns
(2)	NVAN Legislative Brainstorming Date: April 20, 2021 Time: 9:30 AM How: Via Zoom Host: All

10. Public Comment – None.

11. The meeting was adjourned by Babs Waters at 11:15 AM.

(Notes prepared by Ray Biegun.)

Adult Day Services Center
Report to the Commission on Aging
March 2021

As you all are aware, the ongoing pandemic has severely impacted the mental, social and emotional well-being of older adults, especially in long term care facilities. It has also impacted the adult day center community as well.

Since temporarily closing our doors in March of 2020, some of ADSC seniors have expressed experiencing feelings of loneliness due to not attending the center and not being able to physically socialize with peers and staff. The impact of the pandemic has also shown a physical decline, an increase in hospital visits and rehabilitation referrals for some of our higher risk seniors.

The pandemic has not only impacted our participants, but our caregivers and their families as well. Some of the consequences of COVID-19 for caregivers have been;

- Loss of jobs
- Had to move out of state to be near family to get help caring for their loved ones.
- Difficulty of caregiving without day support
- Needed respite
- Emotional toll of being overwhelmed

We know it's been a long tough year but we are all in this together. ADSC is committed to providing resources, suggestions, activities and being there for our participants and their families.

On behalf of the ADSC family, please follow CDC guidelines and stay safe.

If anyone have questions about the program, please leave a message at 703-746-5676 or email me at darrell.wesley@alexandriava.gov

Darrell Wesley,
Program Director, Adult Day Services Center

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission on Aging
FROM: Bill Harris, Liaison to the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee
DATE: March 4, 2021
SUBJECT: Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee Report

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic today's AHAAC meeting was held with ZOOM.

1. Chairwoman Michelle Krocker opened the meeting promptly at 6:30 PM.
2. The Landmark Mall Redevelopment Process was reported on by Ashley Labadie
Applicant's planning is built on previous work done in 2018 - 2019. There have been four meetings and public hearings. The proposal to date shows a maximum of 4.2 million square feet in density. A new INOVA hospital is planned to be 1 million square feet, approximately. The maximum number of housing units will be 2,500. Housing will include affordable, multi-family, townhouses, and housing for seniors. 20% of the development will be non-residential. A fire station is to be built with affordable housing attached. There will be a new Transit hub, and 3.5 acres of ground level open space. The housing plan is to support people working at landmark with incomes for 30 to 80% of ami.
In the Q&A it was mentioned that the greatest housing need is for low-income seniors to have an affordable assisted living facility, as there is currently none in Alexandria.
3. An update of the Arlandria-Chirilagua project was given by Jose Ayala and Tamara Jovovic.
Plans are being made to upgrade this depressed area in the north part of the City next to four Mile run. Plans include developing new affordable housing and preserving existing market rate affordable housing. Amenities and support services needed by the residents of this area are also planned for.
4. ARHA was reported on by Carter Fleming, Commissioner.
The Ramsey property is still having problems getting certificates of occupancy. They hope they will have C of O's for all units in the facility by the end of April. Most of the residents of Ladrey have been vaccinated for covid-19. ARHA staff is going to their other properties to encourage residents to get vaccinated.
5. Jonathan Frederick, Executive Director, reported on AHDC.
Their DelRay product project is going along well. The new project planned for seminary road will have 31 townhouses, 6 two bedroom units, and 4 bedroom units. All will be home ownership.
6. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

For any questions I can be reached at wpharris@comcast.net or 703-684-6432

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center COVID-19 Report for April 2021

Senior Wellness Checks and Assistance for Participants -we continue to outreach to all our seniors and members from the community fielding calls and questions. Weekly telephone calls to seniors to assist with the following services:

- Registered two seniors for DAAS Frozen Meals on Wheels seniors who recently returned to area.
- Weekly shopping trips to Lidl, Landmark Plaza, Walmart and Springfield Mall for seniors
- Spring activity kits, senior requests for perishable food such as milk, bread, and oatmeal

COVID-19 Vaccinations for SMdP Seniors 75+: We continued to collaborate with Alexandria Health Department and family of seniors who are still awaiting vaccine appointments. Coordinated with Senior Taxi to schedule one senior for the second COVID-19 vaccine transportation.

Social Isolation: continue virtual programs for the seniors in Alexandria DAAS community to include weekly virtual classes with AADS and CHSC. Exercise classes are popular as well as ESOL classes. Weekly wellness check calls, trivia, exercise, musicals, current events, and humor.

Senior Shopping Trips: This month the seniors participated in 4 weekly shopping trips. Our trips include going Target, Walmart, Lidl, and Landmark Plaza.

Monthly Senior Newsletters: Mailed monthly newsletters to seniors with community and center updates, recipes, Coronavirus Q&A, and birthday greetings.

Weekly Virtual Newsletter: Emailed 30 newsletters to seniors and their family's information pertaining relevant information from SSA and the community to keep them informed in activities around the city.

Virtual Programming: SMdP seniors continue to participate with Adult Day Services Center (ADSC) virtual programs along with Charles Houston Senior Center participants. We continue to team up with other senior programs in the city and participated in various senior activities virtual and in place. ADSC nominated SMdP Activity Director Maria as part of Women's History month for teaching their staff in skills for operating virtual programs for their seniors. She continues to teach other staff multiple features of Zoom to enhance participation in virtual programming.

This month we began promoting increased outdoor physical activity with the return of the Walking Club at Ben Bremen park and the "Pop Up" senior activity and crafts class outdoors at Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

- **Submitted by Anne T. Coyne, Senior Center Director, St. Martin de Porres Senior Center. Tele: 703-751-2766. Email: anne.coyne@ccda.net**

The Senior Center at Charles Houston
March 2021 Report for April 2021 Meeting

Staff continue to provide weekly wellness telephone checks, weekly teleconference virtual activities that include Bingo and cognitive/brain teasers, as well as participant led rousing discussions on a variety of topics. Houston staff continue to coordinate with the other two senior sites (St. Martin's and ADSC) for combined virtual cognitive and physical activities. Site staff have begun to do planning for late spring activities. Additionally, a weekly Thursday shopping trip to local area markets, grocery's, Walmart and Dollar Tree stores to enable participants to purchase food, medical and household items is provided.

In observance of Women's History month, we did two virtual activities, "Women's History Trivia" and "Famous Women in History," during our teleconference calls. Despite the challenges the pandemic has created, we are still able to bring a small sense of program "normalcy" to our seniors.

We are excited that we are now able to add Zoom to our virtual roster for activities. We will resume our Arthritis Exercise class bi-monthly starting Tuesday, April 6th @ 10:00 a.m. We had a "trial run" this past Tuesday to ensure that our Zoom is working properly as well as ensuring our seniors are able to acclimate to Zoom. Our Arthritis Exercise instructor will continue to be Monique Bagby, we are very happy that she was able to join Tuesday's Zoom and that she's agreed to do the program virtually.

Our seniors still continue to receive their COVID vaccines through the efforts of Annie B. Rose, Ladrey and the City. Many have received their 2nd dose, most report little to no side effects.

As we have had some mild Mondays this month we resumed our Monday Walking Club @ Ben Brenman Park. Participation started a little slow but picked up on last week with a total of 11 seniors walking.

Overall, our seniors continue to be faring pretty well during the pandemic. Their personal needs are met, they have food, shelter and resources to assist them. If a need arises that they're unable to address, center staff provides assistance in directing them to the appropriate resources and referrals.

Submitted by,

Vanessa K. Greene
Senior Center Director



March 26, 2021

To: Commission on Aging

**From: Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director
Senior Services of Alexandria**

Subject: Update on Senior Services of Alexandria

Senior Services of Alexandria and At Home in Alexandria partnered to present an introduction to Container Gardening by Merrifield Gardens. More than 50 people tuned in for the virtual event on March 26, and came away with great tips on how to brighten even small spaces with floral and leafy plantings.

The Spring Senior Academy will be held each Wednesday morning in April, and we are looking forward to introducing the 15 participants to leaders of Alexandria's government and non-profits. The goal is to learn about all that our city has to offer older adults and encourage them to get more involved.

SSA's first virtual Gala was held on Saturday, March 13 and it was a great success. We paid tribute to Barbara Anderson, Bill Euille, and Gene Steuerle for their dedicated commitment to service for our community and honored DCHS Director Kate Garvey for her leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. Funds raised through this event support all of SSA's programs and its success will allow us to continue to meet the critical needs of older adults during this challenging time.

Commission on Aging Housing Committee Meeting of March 15, 2021
Via Zoom
Draft Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Committee Members: Michael Schuster, Chair; Charles Bailey, Bob Eiffert, Marshall Hespe, Jane King, Jan Macidull, Denise Mackie-Smith, Ellen Nelson, and Babs Waters.

Staff: Terri Lynch, Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Welcome – Michael Schuster opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

Review and Approval of the Agenda – The agenda was approved as submitted (no vote required).

Approval of Minutes – The notes from February 22 were approved as submitted (no vote required).

Age Friendly Community Plan – Jane King reiterated the list from the February 22 committee meeting:

- Planning for a Mixed Income Affordable Assisted Living Facility – encourage, facilitate, and plan for a dedicated facility with various public and private partners.
- Public education regarding home modifications to increase accessibility. This could include publicity about and presentation of AARP's Home Fit program.
- Increase funding for the Rent Relief program, as the Commission proposed two years ago.
- Educate about and advocate for more affordable housing for older residents, but with a better description of what the Commission means by affordable housing.
- Reduce the risk of homelessness among older residents, and the need for personal assistance with activities of daily living at homeless shelters (which is not currently available).
- Look at the NVAN platform for possible advocacy around real estate tax relief and assistance with homeowner association and condo fees.
- There needs to be an emphasis on racial equity in all goal areas.

Jane added several other possibilities:

- Develop publicity about accessory dwelling units
- Encourage home sharing and group homes
- Raise awareness of assistive living devices

Jan Macidull raised the issue of brick sidewalks, which have continued to appear at new developments outside of Old Town. Jane King and Michael Schuster will raise that issue with the Transportation Committee. Jan also suggested providing guidance to help residents of multi-family buildings obtain affordable personal care assistance from home care agencies by sharing aides. That suggestion will go to the Outreach and Advocacy Committee.

Michael asked Jane King to prepare her suggested priority list from among the above listed issue areas. That will be the focus of the April 19 committee meeting.

Terri Lynch suggested the possibility of the committee having a joint meeting with the Arlington COA's housing committee to share common goals and interests for the Age Friendly Plan. She will identify their committee chair for Michael to contact about a future meeting.

Helen Nelson raised a question about a homeless woman who died recently. She was concerned about mental health assistance for the woman. Terri Lynch suggested that the full COA might invite someone from the Community Services Board to address issues of mental health among the homeless and how the city tries to assist with them. Carol Layer can assist Babs with that contact for the fall.

Other Business – None

Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Notes prepared by Bob Eiffert.

City of Alexandria, Commission on Aging
Outreach Committee Notes
March 24, 2021 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Via Zoom

Members Present: Victoria Almquist, Asfaha Beyene, Ray Biegun, Gary Hacker, Margaret Orlando, Barbara Walters

Special guests: Mac Slover, Fannie Allen

Hosting staff: Pamela Austin, Debbie Ludington.

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Victoria Almquist, and was conducted in conformity with the following guidelines:

“Due to the COVID 19 pandemic emergency, this meeting is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708-2 (A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adapted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Sections 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All the members of the Committee and staff are participating from remote location through a Zoom Meeting. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough to be held in person at a location to be determined. Public comment will be received at this meeting. A recording of this meeting is being made.”

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as proposed.

2. Presentation on Bullying by Mac Slover and Fannie Allen

A presentation was made by Mac and Fannie, members of the Mayor’s Campaign to End Bullying Committee. Mac started with a brief news clip about bullying of seniors, followed by a detailed presentation about the campaign, including facts on bullying and some of the efforts undertaken so far. Initially, the committee focused on youth, but extended its coverage to include seniors.

Fannie expressed the City’s wish to partner with the community in confronting this challenge. There was a useful exchange of information, resulting in clarification about the broad range of efforts taken so far and recommendations for future initiatives.

It was suggested that a letter to the Mayor could be sent by the Co-chairs of the Outreach Committee, expressing support for this initiative, assuring our participation in addressing the challenges, underlining the importance of training on the issue and reaching out to diverse communities, and encouraging cross-generational cooperation.

Follow-up discussions on this subject will take place during the next meeting of the Outreach Committee.

3. Updates on Outreach to:

Faith Community: Gary indicated that since things are going to open up soon, we need to be ready to start sharing information using this outlet.

LGBTQ community: Ray reminded the committee of the three-day “Pride Workshop” event that will take place on 3-5 June this year. The webinar is organized by the LGBTQ community in cooperation with the City of Alexandria Library.

Senior Ambassadors: Please refer to the website for regular reports covering the excellent efforts made by Senior Ambassadors.

4. Public Comments:

None

4. Other Business

Victoria indicated that she will work to acquire and share a list of assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and other communities for seniors.

5. Public comments

No comments were made

5. Date of next meeting

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28th April, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Commission on Aging – Transportation Committee

March 15, 2021 4:35 PM Via Zoom

Meeting Notes

Members: Ray Biegun, Chair; Alan Dinsmore, Cedar Dvorin, David Kaplan, Jane King, Babs Waters (CoA Chair).

Guests: Mary Lee Anderson & Michael Schuster (COA members).

Staff: Debbie Ludington (DAAS)

Introductions: None required.

Review and Approval of the Agenda – The agenda was approved with one addition: Discussion of commemorating Sharon Dantzig’s service on the Commission and the Transportation Committee.

Discussion

Commemoration of Sharon Dantzig’s service on the Commission and the Transportation Committee. Members and guests discussed alternatives. The commemoration committee (David Kaplan (Chair), Mary Lee Anderson, Michael Schuster, Jane King, and Alan Dinsmore) will make recommendations for presentation and discussion at a future Commission on Aging meeting.

Items discussed included:

- Recognizing Sharon posthumously with an existing excellence in aging award;
- Creating a Commission advocacy new award in Sharon's memory around improved mobility and transportation for older adults;
- AARP recognition.
- A memorial bench designated with Sharon’s name. Possible locations: Old Town and West End.

Complete Streets Program: Christine Mayeur will present Complete Streets Program and Vision Zero update during the April 8 meeting of the Commission.

Targets for 2022 annual activities for the Transportation Committee were discussed. Following were suggested for review and selection:

1. 2022-2014 Age Friendly Plan, transportation section.
2. Vision Zero targets for 2021 as presented by staff for last Transportation Committee meeting.
3. Alexandria Mobility Plan.

DASH: Martin Barna, DASH Director of Planning & Marketing, will be invited to meet with the Transportation Committee in May or June to discuss the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan.

Brick Sidewalks and the status of new construction: It was suggested that the City Council has a favorable view of further introduction of brick sidewalks to enhance historical appearances. Jane King will check with Bob Eiffert on the status of any original agreement with Transportation and Environmental Services regarding expanded use of brick sidewalks. It was also suggested that the Commission on Aging determine the opinion of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities regarding this issue.

Webinar: An upcoming Accelerating Active Transportation Change Webinar on March 25th was discussed, and the Chair asked members to let him know which of the concurrent sessions any member might wish to attend.

Future Agendas: On April 19, Jennifer Slesinger (T&ES) will discuss the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM

The next meeting: Monday, April 19, 4:30 PM via Zoom.

Minutes from March 3, 2021 meeting of the Economic Development Committee

Attending: Mary Lee Anderson, Jane King, Babs Waters, Annabelle Reitman, Sylvia Benatti, Emilia Turcios (City Staff coordinator)

The meeting began at 10:05 am via Zoom

The City's policy on virtual meetings was noted.

Senior Consumers: *Goal is to encourage businesses to offer discounts, services targeted to seniors.*
SSA has continued to distribute cards to older adults, no further activity related to new businesses is envisioned until after the pandemic. AHA will encourage members to patronize Silver Service businesses, but not push for discounts during the pandemic.

Senior Employment: *Goal is to help seniors find employment and to encourage businesses to hire*
Emilia Turcios advised that the second 50+ Cohort program concluded and several participants have job prospects. A "Meet the Employer" event is scheduled for 3/4.

AARP Livable Community

Jane King will continue to coordinate reports on this effort, as the Commission begins work on the next plan.

Housing Initiative *Goal is to make it easier for seniors considering moving to evaluate their options in Alexandria, and keep them here.*

City's Housing webpage includes information about apartments and condos in the City, including information on accessibility and public transportation.

Senior Ambassador Program

There are now 95 senior ambassadors. SSA continues to have weekly Zoom meetings with City officials and other non-profits, as well as send emails with news updates twice a week.

Seniors as Entrepreneurs

Annabelle Reitman and Sylvia Benatti are rolling out the "55+ Incubator" to help older adults who want to start their own business. Their website is under construction and the goal is to be up and running in the spring of 2021. This committee will incorporate their work as part of our new goals for the upcoming year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7 at 10am via zoom.

Submitted by: Mary Lee Anderson