

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING AGENDA**

**Virtual Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 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](mailto: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](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 February 2021 minutes
5. Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report – Sgt. Ian Torrance
6. Special Presentation: Bennett Downey, Esq. Managing Attorney Elder Law Practice Group, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Inc
7. Executive Committee Report– see attached
8. Discussion / Action Items
  - A. Age Friendly Plan update
  - B. FY 2022 budget advocacy
  - C. Moment of Silence followed by discussion of recognition of Sharon Dantzig. Committee members are David Kaplan, Chair; Mary Lee Anderson, Michael Schuster, Jane King, Alan Dinsmore
  - D. Birthday recognition for COA members
9. **Liaison Reports - Please provide a written summary to [Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov)**
  1. Senior Services of Alexandria – Mary Lee Anderson
  2. Alexandria Commission on Employment, ACE – Mary Lee Anderson
  3. Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, NVFPA – Mary Lee Anderson
  4. Arlington Legislative Committee – Mary Lee Anderson
  5. Arlington Commission on Aging – Mitch Opalski
  6. Successful Aging – Margaret Orlando
  7. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities – Margaret Orlando
  8. Alexandria Adult Day Services Center, ADSC – Darrell Wesley
  9. Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, AHAAC – Bill Harris

10. Division of Aging and Adult Services – Terri Lynch
11. INOVA Alexandria Hospital
12. Human Rights Commission – Lynette Foster
13. AHA – Bob Eiffert
14. AARP – Jane King
15. NVAN – Babs Waters / Terri Lynch– see attached
16. St. Martins Senior Center – Anne Coyne– see attached
17. Virginia Hospital Center – Kate Chutuape
18. Commission for Women – Katherine Seifu
19. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Katherine Seifu
20. Public Health Advisory Commission
21. Commission on Persons with Disabilities – Michael Kamin
22. Senior Center @ Charles Houston – Vanessa Green– see attached

10. Committee Updates
  1. Housing – Chair, Michael Schuster– see attached
  2. Outreach Committee – Co-Chairs, Victoria Almquist and Asfaha Beyene
  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– see attached
11. Other Business
12. New Business
13. Public comments – please limit your comments to 3 minutes

**Next Commission Meeting:** Virtual Meeting; Thursday, April 8, 2021, 4pm

**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Virtual Meeting; Monday, March 29, 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](mailto: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](http://www.Alexandriava.gov/aging)

**Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA)  
 Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)  
 Monday, March 1, 2021 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

**Final MEETING NOTES (3)**

**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:**

Terri Lynch, Debbie Ludington

**Guests Present:**

Bob Eiffert

**1. Welcome**

**2. Call to Order:** COA Chair, Babs Waters, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**3. The Agenda was approved with one additional discussion item as 5.C.(5):** Honoring the memory of a former Commission member, Sharon Dantzig, who passed away in February.

**4. Committee Reports**

<b>A.</b>	Economic Development Committee	Mary Lee Anderson, Chair: Last met on February 2; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next committee meeting is on March 3.
<b>B.</b>	Outreach Committee	Victoria Almquist & Asfaha Beyene (co-chairs): Committee did not meet in February. Next committee meeting is on March 24.
<b>C.</b>	Housing Committee	Michael Schuster, Chair: Last met on February 22; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next committee meeting is on March 15.
<b>D.</b>	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). All committee chairs are asked to submit a report of their committee’s 2020 Age Friendly Plan accomplishments to Jane King.
<b>E.</b>	Transportation Committee	Ray Biegun, Chair: Last met on February 22; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next committee meeting is on March 15.
<b>F.</b>	Health/Dementia Friendly Committee	Marjorie K. Conner, Chair.

**5. COA Executive Committee (ExCo) Business Meeting**

<b>A.</b>	<b>Presentation</b>	
		None
<b>B.</b>	<b>ExCo Information only</b>	
	(1)	Chair Report.
	(a)	By-Laws Committee immediately following COA meeting, March 11, 2021 at 6 pm.
	(b)	Lynette Foster-new member was appointed COA liaison to Human Rights Commission
	(2)	DAAS Staff Report – None.
<b>C.</b>	<b>ExCo Discussion Items</b>	

(1)	By-Laws Update. Michael Kreps is drafting new By-Laws that will be discussed at a By-Laws Committee meeting immediately following COA meeting, March 11, 2021 at 6 pm.
(2)	Racial and Social Equity Inclusion Core Values. ExCo discussed the importance of this and the need to reflect on the complicated relationship/history between those identified as Black or African Americans and White Americans living in Alexandria. The goal should not be to just focus on diversity comprised of White Americans and Black or African Americans, but also include the rich diverse communities of ethnicities/nationalities who reside in Alexandria in discussions to increase opportunities for every resident to thrive. Mary Lee has attended bi-weekly meetings with Jaqueline Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer. Victoria shared that the Act for Alexandria foundation is sponsoring a Racial Equity Initiative, and Allyship workshops: <a href="http://www.actforalexandria.org">www.actforalexandria.org</a> . COA members are highly encouraged to participate.
(3)	Recognizing birthdays of COA and Staff members.
(4)	The COA Advocacy Committee includes Babs Waters, Asfaha Beyene, Ellen Nelson, Mary Lee Anderson, Michael Schuster. Jane King and Bob Eiffert. The Committee received a presentation on the City Mgr.'s Budget by Meghan -McGrane (Budget Management Analyst) from the Alexandria's Office of Management and Budget on February 24, 2021. Both Ms. -McGrane and Mr. Morgan Routt, Director, responded to questions and clarified matters of Committee interest. DAAS Staff member present -Terri Lynch; Carol Layer was present as well. Recommended COA action: the Advocacy Committee recommends to the ExCo that the COA present testimony at the March 8th City Council budget public hearing to thank city staff for maintaining programs and services for older residents and to request additional funds for the senior workforce development position to be made full-time. The COA has supported this position in previous years, and it is included in the Age Friendly Plan, which City Council adopted in 2018.
(5)	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.
<b>D.</b>	<b>ExCo Action/Decision Items</b>
	COA Chair, Babs Waters will present budget testimony (approved by ExCo) before the City Council on Mon, Mar 8th as was done for the past two years. This year the presentation will be via Zoom.

## 6. Planning for Thursday, March 11, 2021 Commission on Aging Meeting

<b>A.</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
(1)	Presenter – Bennett Downey, Esq. Managing Attorney Elder Law Practice Group, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Inc
(2)	Q & A
<b>B.</b>	<b>COA Information only Items</b>
(1)	Chair Report - COVID-19 vaccinations
(2)	
(3)	DAAS Staff Report
<b>C.</b>	<b>COA Discussion only Items</b>
(1)	City of Alexandria Age Friendly Plan Updates
(2)	Budget Testimony presented by Chair, COA to City Council at March 8, 2021 Public Hearing.
<b>D.</b>	<b>COA Decision only Items</b>
(1)	Affirm COA Chair's testimony
(2)	

## 7. Planning for future COA meetings



<b>A.</b>	<b>Possible Future Speakers</b>
(1)	April – Christine Mayeur, Alexandria City Complete Streets Program
(2)	May – Jaqueline Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer
(3)	June – A state level political leader
<b>B.</b>	Additional items - Please submit other proposed speakers to <a href="mailto:babswaters@comcast.net">babswaters@comcast.net</a>

**8. Other Business – None.**

**9. Announcements**

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

(1)	Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 Time: 10 AM - Noon How: Via Zoom
(2)	Date: Monday, May 3, 2021 Time 10 AM - Noon How: Via Zoom

**B. Next two (2) COA Monthly Commission Meetings**

(1)	Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM How: Via Zoom
(2)	Date: Thursday, May13, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM How: Via Zoom

**C. Other Alexandria COA events**

	<b>None</b>
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**D. Other non-Alexandria COA events**

(1)	<b>Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN)</b> Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 Time: 9:30 – 11 AM How: Zoom Host: Alexandria COA

**10. Public Comment – None.**

**11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.**

(Notes prepared by Ray Biegun with edits from Babs)

## NVAN Legislative Update 2021 Session

### Consideration of NVAN 2021 Platform Priorities (Includes any action on NVAN issues, whether passed or not)

- **Long-term care infection prevention and control.** While Sen. Favola introduced a budget amendment to provide one long-term care infection preventionist for the state (as opposed to one full-time infection preventionist in each facility as proposed in the NVAN Platform), it did not survive the Senate Finance Committee.
- **Mandate sick leave for direct care workers in nursing homes and assisted living.** While Del. Guzman's HB 2137 providing five days of paid sick leave through employers passed, it specifically excluded as an "employee," workers who are licensed, registered or certified by a health regulatory board. Thus it would not cover nurses, nurse's aides and many similar employees in nursing homes and assisted living.
- **Medicaid dental benefits for adults** – Funds that been previously unallotted were restored. Benefits are to begin July 1, 2021.
- **Eviction Moratorium** – Budget amendment Item 4-14 #4c updates the language and clarifies the requirements for landlords and tenants to apply for rental assistance prior to any evictions-related action occurring. It requires landlords to offer a tenant a payment plan to catch up on back rent before pursuing eviction. It does not include any provisions about legal services contacts in the notice. (There is a federal CDC eviction halt order in effect through March 31, 2021, which could be extended further.)
- **Social Isolation of Older Adults** – SB 1462 by Mason would have required the Department of Social Services to establish a pilot program to provide a fixed reimbursement for the costs of broadband services to household participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Passed Senate but failed to pass House. However, budget amendment Item 359 #2c is a language-only amendment that directs the Department of Social Services to develop a program to increase the number of low-income Virginians with access to reliable and affordable access to broadband.  
  
Moreover, a new federal FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will provide \$50 per month for internet access to qualifying households for the next six months.
- **Minimum nursing home staffing standards** – Two nursing home staffing standards bills were introduced but neither passed. Both would have specified a minimum number of hours of direct care services to each resident per 24-hour period. Sen. Kiggans SB 1149 set out ratios of residents per RN or LPN for day, evening and night. Del. Watts HB 2156 would have increased requirements in phases from 3.5 hours to 4.1 hours of care per resident per day.

However, the Joint Commission on Health Care will be conducting a staff study on the “Impact of Long-Term Care Workforce Needs on Nursing Facility Care.” The five study areas include: (i) assess extent to which there are staffing shortages and understand underlying causes; (ii) evaluate impact of staffing shortages on quality of care; (iii) analyze whether these impacts are disproportionately impacting certain populations; (iv) assess whether current licensing requirement and oversight are identifying and addressing quality of care issues; and (v) identify strategies to improve recruitment and retention of workforce. See Resolution at <http://jchc.virginia.gov/Nursing%20Facility%20Workforce%20-%20Study%20Resolution%20-%20Approved.pdf>

- **Virginia Center on Aging funds** – Budget Amendment Item 214 #2c restored \$150,000 to the VCoA for its geriatric education and training.
  
- **Benefits for Medicaid home care workers** –
  - Budget Amendment Item 313 #8c provides up to five days of paid sick leave for providers of Medicaid, consumer-directed personal, respite or companion care.  
  
Budget Amendment Item 313 #17c increases rates for providers of personal, respite and companion care. Increase by 6.4 percent on May 1, 2021 and 12.5 percent effective November 1, 2021. These rate increases will supplement increases provided in Chapter 1289, 2020 Virginia Acts of Assembly, which provided a five percent beginning July 1, 2020 and a scheduled two percent increase on July 1, 2021. These rate increases enable providers to cover the direct costs for hourly care and ensure the safety of the patients and compliance with minimum wage increases scheduled to increase to \$9.50 per hour on May 1, 2021 and to \$11.00 per hour on January 1, 2022.
  - Budget amendment provides funds for orientation training for Medicaid personal care attendants.
  
- **Replicate RAFT** – Budget Amendment Item 321 #5c, in establishing a Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services workgroup, adds that the workgroup is to evaluate the Northern Virginia Regional Older Adult Facilities Mental Health Support Team (RAFT) model and determine feasibility of replicating the RAFT model elsewhere in the state to support “persons living with dementia with disruptive behaviors or severe and persistent behavioral health conditions.”

#### **Passage of Additional Items of Interest (Includes only items that passed)**

- **Increase in Auxiliary Grant Rate** – Budget Amendment Item 353 #1c provides funds to increase the Auxiliary Grant rate for residents in assisted living, adult foster care and supportive housing settings by 10% on July 1, 2021.

- **JCHC Auxiliary Grant Study** – SJ 293 requests Joint Commission on Health Care to study assisted living and Auxiliary Grants and develop a blueprint for implementing recommendations to provide “a more realistic system of addressing housing and care needs.”
- **Nurse Aide Loan Repayment** – SB 1147 by Sen. Kiggans expands eligibility for Nurse Loan Repayment Program to include certified nurse aides; also, budget amendment Item 295 #1c for \$35,000
- **Centers for Independent Living** – Budget amendment Item 339 #1c restores \$425,000 to support 17 Centers for Independent Living.
- **Dementia Case Management** – Budget amendment Item 340 #1c restores \$150,000 to provide an interdisciplinary plan of care and dementia care management for 50 Virginia residents diagnosed with dementia.
- **DARS Demographic Services** – Budget amendment Item 344 #1c adds \$50,000 for demographic services for statewide aging services at DARS.
- **Accessory Dwelling Unit Workgroup** – HB 2053 by Del Ibraheem directs Department of Housing and Community Development to convene stakeholder workgroup to evaluate attached and detached accessory dwelling units “as a strategy to address the Commonwealth’s growing demand for affordable and market-rate housing.” Also, budget amendment Item 113#1c for \$50,000.
- **Aging services; social need** – HB 1805 & SB 1366 clarify the meaning of “social need” in the provision of DARS aging services.
- **Aging Services Workgroup** – Budget amendment Item 291 #1c creates a workgroup to consider elevating aging services within state government to include the establishment of a new agency for aging services under the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.
- **Supported Decision-Making** – HB 2230 directs Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to develop and implement program to educate individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and others concerning the availability of supported decision-making agreements. Includes training, development of model supported decision-making agreements, protocols for preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, and collection of data on us of supported decision-making agreements. Specifies that supported decision-making agreements are to be considered less restrictive alternatives to guardianship.
- **Retirement Savings** – HB 2174 by Torian directs the Virginia College Savings Plan Board (529 Board) to establish automatic enrollment payroll deduction individual retirement account retirement saving program to be known as Virginia Saves. The Virginia Saves program will require businesses with at least 25 full-time employees to offer the IRA plan, but they would not be required to contribute to it. The budget authorizes a \$2 million annual Treasury loan to support the program.



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

**Senior Wellness Checks and Assistance for Participants** -we continue to outreach to all our seniors and the community at large. Weekly telephone calls to seniors to assist with the following services:

- Deliver weekly surplus DAAS Frozen Meals on Wheels seniors assigned to the center and COA.
- Weekly shopping trips to Lidl, Target, Landmark Plaza, and Walmart for seniors
- Winter activity kits, necessary perishable food bread, milk and oatmeal

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Seniors 75+: We continued to collaborate with SSA, DAAS and Senior Taxi to schedule seniors for the COVID-19 vaccines and transportation. At this time, we registered seniors 65 and older to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine and arranged Senior Taxi rides.

Social Isolation: increased virtual programs for the seniors in the city of Alexandria DAAS community to include bi-weekly virtual exercise class taught by Jane Franklin. Chef Philippe emailed weekly recipes. Weekly "Zoom" calls for wellness checks, 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 80 monthly newsletters to seniors with community and center updates, recipes, Coronavirus Q&A, and birthday greetings.

Weekly Virtual Newsletter: Email weekly 30 newsletters to seniors and their family's information pertaining relevant information from SSA, ADH they need and any requests. We appreciate all the families who actively assist their parent participation.

Virtual Programming: Seniors continue to participate with Alexandria Adult Day Services (AADS) virtual programs along with Charles Houston Senior Center. We continue to collaborate with our other senior centers in the city and participated in interesting Black History month presentations. We are preparing to add a virtual ESL program in March. SMdP Activity Director taught two sister senior center staff members on the multiple features of Zoom to enhance programming.

Biweekly Zoom-ba ( Zumba on Zoom) for our seniors twice a week continues to be popular especially as the outdoor weather is colder.

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

**The Senior Center at Charles Houston**  
**February 2021 Report for March 2021 Meeting**

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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 Valentine's Day, we delivered 36 Goody Bags to our seniors filled with treats and PPE equipment. They were filled with excitement and happiness to receive this unexpected treat. In observance of Black History month, we held a "virtual program" where participants and staff recited poetry and presented on notable Black historians, medical professionals, educators, athletes and entertainers. Despite the challenges the pandemic has created, we are still able to bring a small sense of program "normalcy" to our seniors.

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

We look forward to the warmer temperatures of the upcoming spring season to resume our Monday Walking Club @ Ben Brenman Park.

Overall, our seniors seem to be faring pretty well during the pandemic. Their personal needs are met, they have food, shelter and resources to assist them.

Submitted by,

**Vanessa K. Greene**  
**Senior Center Director**



**Commission on Aging Housing Committee Meeting of February 22, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Draft Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Michael Schuster, Chair; Charles Bailey, Bob Eiffert, Bill Harris, Jane King, Jan Macidull 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.

**Approval of Minutes** – The notes from January 25 were approved as submitted (no vote required).

**City Budget** – Michael Schuster reported on the City Manager’s Proposed Budget for FY 2022. The overall budget is \$767 million. The residential property tax rate proposed is 2 cents lower than last year (down to \$1.11 per hundred dollars of valuation), but homeowners’ taxes will still increase due to the increase in assessed value of properties. The city hopes for additional Cares Act funds for 2022 to help offset revenue losses. Revenues from personal property taxes went down because fewer vehicles were registered in the city. The city projects a 1.9% increase in revenue for 2022. The budget includes a \$2 million increase for affordable housing. The city’s contribution to Birmingham Green will go down by \$200,000 due to additional revenues that Birmingham Green received from other sources. The Mayor expressed concern about funding for older and disabled residents and asked the City Manager to report back on whether current program funding is sufficient. The Commission’s Advocacy Committee will hear more about the budget when it meets with the city’s budget director on February 23.

**Age Friendly Community Plan** – Jane King said it is time for the committee to begin planning for its priorities for the next three-year plan to cover 2022 through 2024. Committee members suggested the following possibilities for consideration:

- 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.

**Publicity about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** – Jane King asked Michael Schuster to draft a potential article about ADUs and how they can benefit older residents. The Outreach Committee will be responsible for getting the article published in a variety of places.

**Other Business** – Charles Bailey announced that ARHA opened its housing wait lists for the first time in years. Within two days, ARHA had received 45,000 applications: 32,000 for ARHA properties, and 13,000 for housing choice vouchers. Charles also noted that there was a successful vaccine clinic at the Ladrey Senior Building. Already, 90 residents have received their second dose of vaccine.

**Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Monday, March 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Notes prepared by Bob Eiffert.



## Commission on Aging – Transportation Committee

February 22, 2021 4:30 PM Via Zoom

### Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Babs Waters (CoA Chair), Acting Committee Chair; Alan Dinsmore, Cedar Dvorin, Jane King. (Excused Absence: Ray Biegun, David Kaplan)

**Guest:** Christine E. Mayeur, AICP, Complete Streets Program Manager / Transportation & Environmental Services.

**Staff:** Debbie Ludington (DAAS)

**Introductions:** None required.

**Review and Approval of the Agenda** – The agenda was approved as submitted.

### Discussion

Ms. Mayeur presented a slide show covering Complete Streets and Vision Zero. She will present the same when she meets with the full CoA. Copies of the presentation can be obtained by contacting [Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov)

The City recognizes that resources for improvements need to be distributed equitably and when repairs are necessary. Before repaving, areas are observed and feedback is obtained from residents regarding the needed changes.

While Ms. Mayeur's department doesn't work on scooters, they do consider their impact.

The Transportation Master Plan is now called the Alexandria Mobility Plan.

Where speed limits have been reduced (Quaker Lane & Seminary Rd) they noted a 40% drop in crashes resulting in injury. Traffic deaths are low and the city is looking at the correlation with Vision Zero.

Walkability Audits: The City's walk audits were done in 2015. Other audits, especially Safe Walk to School, are ongoing. Middle schools' audits will likely start in the fall. We will be notified about any new walk audits.

Pedestrian Education: Continued discussion on Commission on Aging initiatives for pedestrian safety including training for pedestrian education for safety. We can use the map from the slide show to help publicize areas that are high crash areas.

Age Friendly Plan: We will need to list accomplishments from 2019 - 2021 and then look ahead (2022 - 2024). We can identify how people can maintain mobility when they stop driving.

Future Agendas: In March, Alexandria Mobility Plan.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

**The next meeting:** Monday, March 15, 4:30 PM via Zoom.

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

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

The meeting began at 10:11 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 has five participants and the presentation by Annabelle Reitman & her colleague Sylvia Benatti was well received. She is working with AARP on a podcast about the Cohort program. Emilia will share the schedule of upcoming WDC workshops with the committee. 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. She will share the article in the Zebra paper about the goals as well as a copy of the entire plan with Emilia to insure she is familiar with the goals established related to senior employment.

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

Jane King will take a look at the apartment and condo listings on the City's Housing webpage and talk with the COA Housing Committee about any additional features that may want included.

#### **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 10:36 am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3 at 10am via zoom.

Submitted by: Mary Lee Anderson

**Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee Meeting of February 24, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Draft Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Babs Waters, Chair; Asfaha Beyene, Bob Eiffert, Jane King, Ellen Nelson and Michael Schuster.

Staff: Terri Lynch and Carol Layer, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Morgan Routt and Meghan McGrane, Office of Management and Budget.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Babs Waters opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

**City Budget** – Morgan Routt, Budget Director, opened the presentation by reminding the committee that the FY 2021 budget was presented last February, but had to be completely redone in light of COVID-19. City staff had to cut \$36 million from their proposed FY 2021 budget and projected that they would need to cut \$56 million in FY 2022, which begins July 1, 2021. They were able to preserve city services by reducing the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), instituting a hiring freeze, and eliminating pay increases. They began work on the FY 2022 budget last fall while revenue projections were still uncertain. They requested that each city department propose 10% reductions. Since that time, the revenue picture has improved, so the proposed budget is also much better. Staff took \$11.8 million in savings from department's budgets by leaving 38 positions unfunded and finding other administrative cuts. There are no substantive cuts to programs or services.

Meghan McGrane then worked through a PowerPoint presentation on the highlights of the budget.

- The proposed budget totals \$767.6 million, an increase of 1.9% over 2021.
- The budget includes a proposed 2 cent reduction in the residential real estate tax rate, from \$1.13 per hundred dollars valuation to \$1.11. The average homeowners' tax bill will still increase due to increased assessments.
- The Schools' budget request is fully funded at \$239 million, a 2.1% increase from this year. The Schools' budget represents 35% of the total city budget.
- There is no change in the personal property tax rate, even though the revenue has dropped due to fewer people buying new vehicles.
- The stormwater fee will double to \$280 per household to help address the flooding situations that have occurred recently.
- The City Manager also proposed two alternate budget scenarios as possible options for City Council to consider: a larger budget of \$780.6 million if the residential property tax remains the same; or a smaller budget of \$741.7 million if the property tax rate were reduced by 6 cents per hundred dollars of valuation to allow for property owners to have no increase in their overall tax bills. That proposal includes cuts to programs and services.
- The proposed budget provides an additional \$1.6 million to \$2.0 million for affordable housing to offset the loss in meals tax revenues due to the pandemic; \$600,000 for a community policing board; \$505,000 for early childhood; a second equity coordinator

position in the City Manager's Office; a crisis co-response program in mental health to allow a better response to mental health emergencies; and funding for stormwater fee relief to homeowners who need financial assistance to pay the increased fee.

- The Holmes Run Stream trail restoration is funded at \$5 million, with planning to be done during the current fiscal year and construction to begin in FY 2022.
- Transit funding assumes some additional federal funds from another stimulus bill.
- The DOT paratransit program is unchanged in both funding and program operation from the current year.
- In workforce support, the budget includes no staff layoffs, ends the current hiring freeze (except for the separately identified 38 positions that are unfunded), includes merit pay increases, and maintains or lowers health insurance premiums for employees.
- The budget does NOT include funds to increase the senior workforce development position from half-time to full-time, as the Commission on Aging has requested.
- The FY 2023 budget will likely include a residential property tax rate increase to cover increases in the CIP budget.

Important budget dates include the budget public hearing on March 8; the Healthy and Thriving focus area City Council work session on March 17; an April 15 deadline for Councilmembers to propose items for the Add/Delete list; an April 17 public hearing on the proposed tax rate; April 27 for the first Add/Delete Council work session; May 3 for the final Add/Delete Council work session; and final budget adoption on May 5.

Babs Waters thanked the budget staff for their excellent presentation, and they left the meeting.

**Recommended COA Action** – the Advocacy Committee recommends to the Executive Committee that the Commission present testimony at the March 8 budget public hearing to thank staff for maintaining programs and services for older residents, but to also request additional funds for the senior workforce development position to be made full-time. The Commission has supported this position in several previous years, and it is included in the Age Friendly Community Plan, which City Council adopted in 2015.

**Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Notes prepared by Bob Eiffert.