

# ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

*January 13, 2022  
Virtual Meeting*

**Members Present:** Babs Waters, Barbara D'Agostino, Michael Schuster, Canek Aguirre, David Kaplan, Ellen Nelson, Gerri Wallace, Jenn Stowe, Lois Steele, Lynette Foster, Mary Lee Anderson, Michael Kreps, Ray Biegun, William Campbell

**Members Excused:** Jim Lindsay

**Members Unexcused:** Barbara Huelat, Dawn Higgins, Michael Kamin

**Liaisons Present:** Pamela Guerra, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Anne Coyne, St. Martins Senior Center; Margaret Orlando, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Torrance, Police Department

**Staff Members Present:** Terri Lynch, Kim Taylor and Pamela Austin, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Evelyn Quiles, Workforce Dev. Center; Darrell Wesley, Adult Day Services Center

**Guests Present:** Gaynelle Diaz, ARHA; Nicolas Joseph, PACE; Cathy Cole, Blanca Cali, Virginia Hospital Center; Bob Eiffert, Housing Committee; Charles Bailey, Housing Committee; Jan Macidull, Housing Committee

1. **Call to Order.** Ms. Waters called the December meeting of the Commission on Aging ("COA") to order at 4:09 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The December minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Ms. Waters introduced Sgt. Ian Torrance, who joined the COA meeting on behalf of the Alexandria City Police Department. William Campbell asked about the first meeting of the new Independent Community Policing Review Board. Councilmember, Canek Aguirre, the new City Council liaison to the COA, said it would convene next week. He said the Board has eight members appointed by the City Council, their appointments beginning on January 1, 2022
5. **Executive Committee Report.** Materials previously distributed.
6. **Special Presentation: Terri Lynch,** Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Director Lynch walked the Commission through the income guidelines for

programs available to older adults. She mentioned the income thresholds for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, discussed the various income thresholds for both Medicare and Medicaid, such as the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLIMB), and Medicaid expansion programs. She concluded her presentation by going over the Virginia and D.C. Area median income guidelines. She noted how much higher they were in Northern Virginia as opposed to other parts of the Commonwealth. Bill Campbell asked whether felons could receive SSI benefits. Only convicted felons imprisoned for more than thirty days are ineligible. Once they leave the penal institution they are once again eligible for both SSI and Social Security benefits.

7. **Discussion and Action Items**

- a. Thank you, Ray Biegun, – new Chair, Outreach Committee. Chair Walters thanked Ray for taking on this new appointment. A co-chair is needed. The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.
- b. David Kaplan and Bill Campbell are the new co-chairs for the Transportation Committee. Chair Babs Waters thanked David and Bill for stepping up to co-chair this important committee.
- c. COVID-19 Vaccinations Updates - booster shots: Gerri Wallace reported on the status of transmissions and vaccinations. There has been a total of 24,719 reported transmissions in Alexandria. In the last seven days, the rate per 100,000 residents was 2007, which puts Alexandria in the High range according to CDC measurements. Anything above 100 is considered High. In Alexandria, 59.3% residents are fully vaccinated, and 81.1% are either fully or partially vaccinated. Across Virginia, 46,000 people have been hospitalized, and 1 million residents have been vaccinated. The CDC has shortened the time for getting a booster shot from six months after the last regular shot to five months. In addition, the self-isolation period has been reduced from about 10 days after symptoms abate to five days. Barbara D'Agostino said that surgical, N95 and KN95 masks are best masks to prevent infections from the omicron variant if they fit properly. You can get up-to-date information from the Department of Health's Dashboard:  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/performance/info/dashboard.aspx?id=114883>

8. **Liaison Reports.**

- a. *Division of Aging and Adult Services.* Terri Lynch said that the new director of the Division is Christopher Moore who will start on February 7, 2022. He currently manages programs at the Howard County (Maryland) Office on Aging and Independence and serves as an adjunct instructor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He has a master's degree in the Management of Aging Services from the University of Maryland, and a bachelor's degree from Hampton University in Virginia.

- b. *Commission for Women*. Jean Stowe said they had a meeting on Tuesday at which there was a presentation on DASH.
- c. *Human Rights Commission* – Lynette Foster. Lynette reported that Sarah Taylor gave the commission an update on a variety of topics, such as the new redistricting map for the upcoming primaries, the implementation of the minimum wage law, comparative negligence versus contributory negligence in the insurance law, and the pilgrimage of Alexandrians to Selma, Alabama to highlight voting rights. The commission also discussed the transition of 3G technology to 5G technology and how it will impact older persons who have not obtained upgraded mobile devices.
- d. *AHA*. Bob Eiffert said they have gone back to virtual programs.
- e. *AARP*.
- f. *NVAN*. Babs Waters - At the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting Dorcus Baker, RN, Regional Coordinator, Johns Hopkins discussed HIV and its impact on older adults. She described the epidemiology of HIV in older adults, the evolving landscape of aging and HIV, and the issues of concern going forward. Babs said Alexandria will host the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and there will be a presentation from Cherry Blossom Pace.
- g. *Senior Center at Charles Houston*. Pam Guerra is the new coordinator at the center, replacing Vanessa Green. She submitted a written report and had nothing else to report.
- h. *Arlington Legislative Committee*. Michael Schuster reported that they have not met since the last COA meeting.
- i. *Community Health Assessment*.
- j. *St. Martins Senior Center*. Anne Coyne submitted a written report earlier and added that the Department of Health advised them to close for a month because of the increase in Covid-19 transmissions.
- k. *Virginia Hospital Center*. Blanca Cali said that the medical alert system which they manage will change from 3G technology to 4G, and the older technology will not work after February 28<sup>th</sup>. VHC is working with clients on the transition. The domestic caregiver group met in a hybrid session in November. The Senior Health Department is now under a new division called Population Health. The senior department will do follow-up for one month after an older adult is discharged from the hospital.
- l. *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria*.
- m. *Public Health Advisory Commission*.
- n. *Commission on Persons with Disabilities*.

- o. *Senior Services of Alexandria.* Mary Lee Anderson said they will be continuing with virtual programming. Their Gala has been moved from March to May 6<sup>th</sup> in the hope that it can be in person. They will honor among others, Del Pepper and Vanessa Green. Next Thursday, AARP and Cherry Blossom Pace will be featured speakers in their speakers' series. Materials previously distributed
- p. *Alexandria Commission on Employment.* Mary Lee said that in their January meeting they discussed how to help older persons who want to become entrepreneurs.
- q. *Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance.* Mary Lee Anderson said that the Alliance has applied for an extension of the grant from Marymount University.
- r. *Arlington Commission on Aging.*
- s. *Successful Aging.* Margaret Orlando said they were planning for spring events – a dance event with high school seniors and their walk-a-thon. Watch for announcements soon.
- t. *Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.* Margaret Orlando said the seniors' centers are open and older persons are slowly coming back to them. Both Mount Vernon and Armstrong had holiday parties. Armstrong is planning a Valentine's Day dance.
- u. *Alexandria Adult Day Services Center.* Darrell Wesley said they are still in the process of hiring for three staff positions. Materials previously distributed
- v. *Housing Affordability Advisory Committee.* Jan Macidull has received confirmation of her appointment by the City Council on January 11, 2022 to be a member of the Committee.
- w. *INOVA Alexandria Hospital.*

9. **Committee Updates.**

- a. *Housing.* Materials previously distributed. Additional materials attached.
- b. *Outreach.*
- c. *Transportation.* Materials previously distributed. Revised materials attached.
- d. *Economic Development.* Materials previously distributed
- e. *Strategic Planning.*
- f. *Health/Dementia Friendly.*

*g. Advocacy*

10. **Other Business.** Evelyn Quilles from the Workforce Development Center repeated her announcement from the last COA meeting that they are looking for people who can provide help in their work-based experience program, focusing on IT, procurement, administrative work, finance, and health care. They can pay between \$15 and \$20 an hour to participants, up to 35 hours a week for three months. The work or business sponsors would be responsible for keeping track of the participant's time. The Workforce Development Center would pay the participants directly. The objective is to provide participants exposure to actual work done in these areas.
11. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Minutes will be presented at the February 10, 2022, COA meeting for approval. The next Executive Committee meeting is on January 31, 2022.

*Minutes prepared by Michael Schuster, COA Secretary.*

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**Commission on Aging Housing Committee Meeting for November 15, 2021  
1:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Michael Schuster, Committee Chair; Charles Bailey, Bob Eiffert, Jane King, Terri Lynch, Jan Macidull, Lois Steele, Gerri Wallace and Babs Waters.

**Welcome and Introductions** – Michael Schuster, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

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

**Review and Approval of the October 18, 2021 Minutes** – The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Updates:**

- 1. Presentation on potential Senior Assisted Housing at Landmark Development** – <https://www.alexandriava.gov/LandmarkVanDorn> - and **the Power Plant Project**. Bob Eiffert reported that the developer of Landmark, Foulger-Pratt, had contacted Goodwin House about partnering on an affordable senior housing project. Goodwin House expressed interest, but then never heard from the developer again. Bob had no further update. On the power plant development, Jan Macidull is a neighboring resident and is participating on an advisory panel of residents regarding what is included in the development. Jan was attending a meeting with HILCO, the developer, on the evening of November 15 and planned to speak with City Council Member-Elect Sarah Bagley, who is also involved with the advisory committee, about the possibility of using part of the site for a Moderate Income Affordable Assisted Living Facility (MIAALF). Jan will report back to the committee on what happens.
- 2. Proposed goals for new Aging Friendly Plan** – Lois Steele worked with Jane King to revise the draft after the October committee meeting. The draft was included with the meeting agenda. After discussion and revisions, Lois will again revise the draft and send it to committee members. The draft will be finalized at the December 20 committee meeting.
- 3. Report on the Landlord Tenant Relations Board Meeting on November 3, 2021** – Gerri Wallace and Michael Schuster attended the Zoom presentations, and Lois Steele watched the recorded video after the meeting. Gerri described the two presentations. Dipti Pidikiti-Smith of Legal Services of Northern Virginia described the services that LSNV provides to city residents who are income qualified, which include eviction prevention measures, legal assistance with evictions, and other housing related issues for lower income residents. Then Dr. Moon from the University of Mary Washington presented on the history of exclusion of minorities from properties in Alexandria during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the housing restrictions dated back hundreds of years. Black residents of the city were

systematically excluded from whole areas of the city. There were maps published that established the limited number of areas where people of color could live. Land deeds contained restrictive covenants prohibiting the sale of the property to Blacks, which the United States Supreme Court invalidated in 1948. Black residents were displaced from whole areas when the city wanted to use the land in a different way, such as the establishment of T.C. Williams High School and Fort Ward Park. Black people were also excluded from home ownership opportunities in certain neighborhoods such as Del Ray by banks that refused to grant them home loans, a practice called redlining. The Parker Grey neighborhood was one place that Black people could live in the segregated city. Lois Steele also commented on the Landlord Tenant presentation that she had watched, along with some history about T.C. Williams High School (now the Alexandria City High School).

### **Other Business**

- Charles Bailey reported that ARHA (the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority) has entered into an agreement with developers to redevelop the Samuel Madden Homes site between Patrick and Henry Streets north of Montgomery Street. The ARHA website says that the existing 66 units of public housing will be replaced by a much larger development with many more affordable units. While no numbers are specified, the units will be divided as follows: one third of the units will be reserved for very low-income renters (0 to 30% of area median income); one third for moderate income renters (30-80% of AMI); and one third for market rate renters. The units will be constructed in two buildings with a full array of amenities including ground level retail and a 10,000 square foot public park. The developers and ARHA will present plans to the City in 2022.
- Babs Waters announced that Jan Macidull has agreed to represent the Commission on Aging on the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC), replacing Bill Harris who has moved to McLean.
- Babs suggested a recognition for Bill Harris, who served the Commission in various roles for over 20 years, including pivotal work on the MIAALF concept that the COA is still pursuing. Bill created that model based on the very successful non-profit Chesterbrook Residences in McLean, where Bill and his wife now reside. Bob Eiffert suggested that the recognition wait until Bill is able to attend an event in the dining room of his new residence, and the committee agreed. Lois Steele suggested sending cards to Bill in the meantime; Bob will send Bill's address to committee members.

**Public Comments** – None.

**Adjourn** – the meeting adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Monday, December 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

Notes prepared by Bob Eiffert

## Commission on Aging - Transportation Committee

December 20, 2021 4:37 PM Via Zoom

### Meeting Notes

**Members:** Ray Biegun (Chair), Charles Bailey, Bill Campbell, Alan Dinsmore, Cedar Dvorin

**Staff:** Debbie Ludington (DAAS)

**Introductions:** None required.

**Review and Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda (previously provided by the Chair). Note: At the meeting start, we did not have the requisite number of members to approve the agenda, so the item was tabled. Once we had the minimum essential number of members on the Zoom call, the agenda was approved.

### Discussion

1. The Chair gave a brief review of what occurred at the most recent Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) meeting (the Chair and Charles Bailey attended). Most of the AFSS meeting centered around discussion of the "Near Miss" data being recorded via the group's Dashboard. The group is doing analyses to see if any correlations can be identified between the reporting of "near misses" and actual accidents in related areas. There was a comment that Dashboard information appeared to show that "Near Miss" reporting is trending up. There was also a discussion that there may be value in looking at the time of day that data is recorded (perhaps a need/desire to adjust the data graphs).
2. A major item on the agenda was to discuss evaluation requirements for the AARP Alexandria Age Friendly Plan, which are being worked on by Jane King and Michael Schuster. Neither Jane or Michael were not present and the discussion on the topic was tabled.
3. The Chair indicated that the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was in the process of identifying a new Chair and that efforts to contact them for information on their next meeting have not been effective. In the last TCom meeting, Bill Campbell had volunteered to be the liaison to BPAC, and he indicated that he's not had any contact with anyone in the group. Ray and Bill will work together to identify good contacts and get information on the next BPAC meeting.
4. There were two general comments. One concerned the need for us to reach out to the DASH folks to help them ensure that information is being dispersed as widely as possible to current and potential ridership. Another concerned looking into possible improvements to the intersection of Mt. Vernon Avenue and West Glebe Road. Charles said he would contact Mike Doyle (AFSS). Mike Doyle was interviewed on the local news and his group is very concerned about that intersection.

**Other Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM

**Next meeting:** January 2022 meeting is cancelled.

The next meet will be Monday, February 28, 2022, 4:30 PM via Zoom.