

**Alexandria Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**June 10, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

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

**Members Excused:** Michael Kamin, Michael Kreps, Jim Lindsay, Ellen Nelson

**Members Unexcused:** William Campbell

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

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

**Guests Present:** Jane King and Bob Eiffert, COA Housing Committee; Canek Aquirre, Anthem Health Care / City Council; Gaynelle Diaz, ARHA; Geoffrey Caldwell, Econ. Opportunities Commission; Tom Reiter, PACE; Paul Nasto, My Home Companion; Charniele Herring, Virginia House of Delegates; Marina Hernandez, Charniele Herring’s office

1. **Call to Order.** Ms. Waters called the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Commission on Aging (“COA”) to order at 2:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously with one addition relating to the new policy regarding in-person public meetings beginning in October 2021.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The May 13, 2021 minutes were approved with a correction on page 2 – changing “WBC” to “WDC.”
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. He announced that Police Chief Michael Brown has resigned and will likely be replaced temporarily by the deputy chief of police. He gave an update on reported crime in the city. The task force on gun crime arrested 33 suspects and confiscated over 40 firearms. He referred the commission complaint about car noise along 495 to the traffic safety unit which is working with the state police to resolve the issue of racing cars.
5. **Welcome Guests.** Ms. Waters welcomed guests and the guest speaker, Delegate Charniele Herring. Delegate Herring gave a summary of the state budget and legislative

highlights. She said that there has been an increase of 41.9 percent in general revenues since the start of the pandemic. She noted that Virginia has received \$4.3 billion from the American Rescue Plan, which will be used to address, among other priorities, broadband access, an increase of 5% in teachers' salaries and essential infrastructure areas. She discussed legislation dealing with felon enfranchisement, clean slates for those convicted of minor offences, early voting (45 days before an election) and the Virginia IRA savings program promoting retirement plans. In response to the six written questions presented to her before the meeting, Delegate Herring said she was in support of providing mandatory notice of legal assistance available to those facing evictions, sick leave for direct health care workers, mandatory staff ratios in nursing facilities, and relief for those who have trouble paying their condominium or cooperative fees during the pandemic. She expressed concern about the cost of a full-time infection preventionist in long-term care facilities.

6. **Executive Committee Report.** See attached

Chair Waters gave an update on vaccinations in the city. At least 55% of residents have received at least one dosage, and 49.4% are fully vaccinated. Mary Lee Anderson mentioned that in a meeting with the new public health director, she learned that 85% of those 75 and older have been vaccinated. Chair Waters said there will be two meetings in June to discuss budget priorities for the commission to work on: June 22 and June 29, both at 2:00 p.m.

7. **Discussion and Action Items**

- a. *Transition to In-person meetings.* Debbie Ludington reported on the new City policy on meetings. All commission meetings should occur in person by October 1, 2021. Information about the change was sent to commission members before this meeting. At its September meeting, the commission will need to adopt a policy on exceptions to having in-person meeting for individual commission members.
- b. *Annual Report.* Chair Waters reminded committee chairs to complete their sections for the Annual Report by the end of June. Hybrid meetings will not be allowed beginning October 1, 2021.
- c. *Age Friendly Plan Update.* Jane King gave an update on the Age Friendly Plan.
- d. *COA Racial and Social Equity Statement.* Chair Waters gave an update on the COA Racial and Social Equity statement. It is being reviewed by Jacqueline Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer for Alexandria. Thus, it is on hold for consideration at the COA meeting in September.
- e. *Scooter Task Force Report.* Chair Waters and Ray Biegun gave a report on the Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force. It will hold a public hearing on June 24, 2021, and a task force meeting on July 13, 2021, before making a recommendation to the City Council. See attached
- f. *Report on LGBTQ Program.* Chair Waters reported on the LGBTQ program that COA commissioners and Division of Aging and Adult Services attended recently.
- g. *Memorial Bench for Sharon Dantzig.* Chair Waters announced that a bench has been secured to honor Sharon on the waterfront near the Dock House and the landing for the Cherry Blossom boat. Mary Lee Anderson said that \$610.00 of the \$800 needed for purchase of a plaque on the bench has been received. Eleven persons have already

made donations. Further donations can be made to Senior Services of Alexandria either online or by check. The donations are tax deductible.

- h. *Swearing in of New Officers.* Councilmember Del Pepper swore in the newly elected COA officers; Babs Waters, Chair; Barbara D’Agostino, Vice Chair; and Michael Schuster, Secretary.

8. **Liaison Reports**

- a. Alexandria Adult Day Services Center, AADSC – previously distributed
- b. Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, AHAAC
- c. Division of Aging and Adult Services

Terri Lynch reported that DAAS staff is going out more than before, but they never stopped. They are doing a lot of outreach for the Covid-19 vaccination. Terri mentioned there is a program for vaccinating homebound individuals, since March. She noted that at any one time there are 40 people using the Grand Pads, and that 15 of them are superusers – using it several hours every day. The Grand Pads depend on funding. It is only a pilot project to alleviate the isolation of older persons. They have two virtual Medicare presentations coming up through VICAP. You can obtain the program’s handbook – *Medicare and You*- for free.

- d. INOVA Alexandria Hospital
- e. Human Rights Commission

Lynette Foster just referred to the minutes. She reported on some of their current activities.

- f. *AHA.*

Bob Eiffert reported that slowly they are getting back to in-person programs.

- g. AARP

Jane King reported that AARP continues to offer a rich range of virtual programs. They are continuing with their Age Friendly Communities.

- h. NVAN

Chair Waters said that NVAN meets on the third Tuesday of every other month. The various committee will be meeting to formulate new platform priorities based on a survey recently taken, and will report in July.

- i. *Community Health Assessment.*

- j. *St. Martins de Porres Senior Center.*
- k. *Virginia Hospital Center.*
- l. *Commission for Women.*
- m. *Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria.*

Chair Walters asked for a volunteer to be the liaison for this very important partnership.

- n. *Public Health Advisory Commission.*

This is another commission that needs a liaison.

- o. *Commission on Persons with Disabilities.*
- p. *Senior Center at Charles Houston. Attached.*
- q. *Senior Services of Alexandria.*

Mary Lee Anderson said that SSA will be doing a Senior Ambassador training on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom for new volunteers. Mary Lee Anderson reported that the Arlington Commission on Aging wanted her to do a presentation on Alexandria's Senior Ambassador program.

- r. *Alexandria Commission on Employment.*

The WDC will be hiring for the full-time work development center position. Emilia Turcios reported that they had two hospitality hiring events on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 9, 2021. They will be having in-person hiring events in July and August.

- s. *Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance.*
- t. *Arlington Legislative Committee*

Mary Lee Anderson reported that the Arlington legislative committee wanted to confirm that the Alexandria COA wanted to once again cosponsor the legislative forum on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fairlington Community Center at which the NVAN legislative platform will be discussed. The two commissions have been cosponsoring this event for more than ten years. Chair Waters said that every member of the COA is invited to this legislative forum.

- u. *Arlington Commission on Aging.*

Linc Cummings complimented the work of the Alexandria COA and said he has a lot of good information to take back to the Arlington COA.

v. *Successful Aging.*

Margaret Orlando said they will be having a major walk-a-thon in the Fall.

w. *Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.*

Margaret Orlando reported that the Chinquapin Community Center and pool will be closed during the summer for major renovations and repairs.

9. **Committee Updates.**

a. *Housing.* -- previously distributed

b. *Advocacy and Legislation.*

c. *Outreach.*

d. *Transportation.*

e. *Economic Development.*

Jim Lindsay of the COA joined the committee this month.

f. *Strategic Planning.*

Chair Waters announced that there will be some meetings in June to discuss what city budget issues the commission should focus on. The first meeting will be on June 22, 2021 at 2:00 on Zoom.

g. *Health/Dementia Friendly.*

h. *By-Laws – ad hoc*

A final draft of the proposed By-Laws was sent to commission members prior to the meeting and will be considered at the September 2021 commission meeting.

i. *Advocacy – ad hoc*

10. **Other Business.** Guest, Canek Aguirre, announced that there will be a special virtual program on Medicaid updates on June 22, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 11:00. a.m. He encouraged COA meeting participants to register for this event. There will be a lot of experts there from groups like Virginia Catalyst and the Virginia Healthcare Foundation.

11. **New Business.** Councilmember Del Pepper said that the City Council will hold a virtual public hearing in June 19, 2021 to hear additional comments on how the city should use its funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Alexandria will receive a total of \$59.4 million. It has received \$29.7 million already and will get the second tranche of it next May 2022. Over 13,000 comments have been received so far. Mary Lee Anderson said that the first set of comments focused more on infrastructure and flooding issues, and that perhaps the advocacy community should focus at the June 19<sup>th</sup> hearing on human services and health care issues. Councilmember Del Pepper emphasized that there are fewer restrictions on how Alexandria City can spend the ARP funds compared to the earlier Cares Act monies. She asserted that “all ideas will be put into the pot you can be sure.” Commissioner members interested in attending, should attend as individuals and not as representing the COA.
12. **Public Comments.** Ms. Waters provided an opportunity for guests to make comments.
13. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Minutes will be presented at the September 9, 2021 COA meeting for approval.

*Minutes prepared by Michael Schuster, COA Secretary.*

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**Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA)  
Executive Committee (ExCo) Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 10:03 - 11:15 AM**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Members Present:**

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

**Staff Members Present:**

Debbie Ludington, Terri Lynch

**Guests Present:**

Jane King

1. **Welcome**
2. **Call to Order:** COA Chair, Babs Waters called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.
3. **The Agenda was approved.**
4. **Committee Reports**

<b>A.</b>	Economic Development Committee	Mary Lee Anderson, Chair: Last met on May 5; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on June 2.
<b>B.</b>	Outreach Committee	Victoria Almquist & Asfaha Beyene (co-chairs): Last met on May 26; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on June 23.
<b>C.</b>	Housing Committee	Michael Schuster, Chair: Last met on May 17; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on June 21.
<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 will need to be completed for the years 2022-2024.
<b>E.</b>	Transportation Committee	Ray Biegun, Chair: Last met on May 17; see Committee Meeting Notes. Next meeting is on June 21. Ray represented COA at the May 27 meeting of the Alexandria Scooter Task force. The next Scooter Task Force meeting is July 13. See website for details: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/DocklessMobility">https://www.alexandriava.gov/DocklessMobility</a>
<b>F.</b>	Health/Dementia Friendly Committee	Marjorie K. Conner, Chair. The Dementia Friendly Alexandria Committee met on May 28.

**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)	COVID-19 vaccinations update
	(b)	By-laws Committee update.
	(c)	Annual Report: Committee annual report submissions due end of June 2021
(2)	DAAS Staff Report – Debbie has been meeting with the senior centers’ staff to discuss reopening. No dates yet, possibly in the fall.	

<b>C. ExCo Discussion Items</b>	
(1)	Proposed Aspire Independent Living Facility - a senior affordable housing project near Braddock Road Metro. No updates. City is still in discussion with the builder/applicant
(2)	Update on designating a city bench to honor the memory of a former Commission member, Sharon Dantzig, who passed away in February. Bench selected; donations being accepted.
(3)	Racial & Social Equity Statement for COA. Completed. A suggestion was made to run it by the Alexandria Race and Social Equity Office.
(4)	Requested questions for Delegate Herring to babswaters@comcast.net by Fri, June 04
(5)	Meeting dates for -- Budget advocacy group: June 22 at 2:00 PM (All ExCo members are invited.) Planning for Age Friendly and the year ahead: June 29 at 2:00 PM (All ExCo members to attend.)

<b>D. ExCo Action/Decision Items</b>	
(1)	By-laws – Babs will get back to Michael Kreps

## 6. Planning for Thursday, June 10, 2021 Commission on Aging Meeting

<b>A. Presentation</b>	
(1)	Presenter - VA Delegate Charniele Herring
(2)	Q & A
<b>B. COA Information only Items</b>	
(1)	Chair Report (a) COVID-19 vaccinations update (b) COA participants needed for: *Economic Development, Outreach, & Transportation Committees *Liaison for Partnership for a Healthy Alexandria (c) Committee annual report submissions due by June 30, 2021
(2)	DAAS Staff Report
<b>C. COA Discussion only Items</b>	
(1)	City of Alexandria Age Friendly Plan Updates.
(2)	Zoom Protocol Reminders.
(3)	COA Racial and Social Equity Statement for COA completed – statement included,
(4)	Scooter Task Force Report. Ray Biegun.
(5)	COA planning an LGBTQ Workshop at Alexandria LGBTQ Pride Weekend on June 4.
<b>D. COA Decision only Items</b>	
(1)	Election of new COA Officers
(2)	Vote *on By-laws; *on Racial & Social Equity Statement

## 7. Planning for future COA meetings

<b>A. Possible Future Speakers</b>	
(1)	September - Councilwoman "Del" Pepper



(2)	October: Director, DAAS – Terri Lynch
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<b>B.</b>	Additional items - Please submit other proposed speakers to <a href="mailto:babswaters@comcast.net">babswaters@comcast.net</a>
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**8. Other Business – None.**

**9. Announcements**

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

(1)	Date: Monday, August 30, 2021 (Note: Monday, September 06, Labor Day is observed) Time 10 AM – Noon via Zoom
(2)	Date: Monday, October 04, 2021 Time 10 AM – Noon via Zoom

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

(1)	Date: Thursday, September 09, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM via Zoom
(2)	Date: Thursday, October 14, 2021 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM via Zoom

**C. Other Alexandria COA events**

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

(1)	NVAN Date: July 20, 2021 Time: 9:30 AM-11AM via Zoom Host: N/A
(2)	SSA Senior Law Days June 4, 11, 18 at 10:00 AM

**10. Public Comment – None.**

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

(Notes prepared by Ray Biegun.)

## **Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force**

As part of an action in December 2019, City Council approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Scooter Task Force to craft recommendations to the City Council about the future of the dockless mobility program for Alexandria. Meetings are open to the public and materials are provided online. COA is a member of the Task Force.

### **Past Meetings:**

**Task Force Meeting #3:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 (Virtual meeting)

**Task Force Meeting #2:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 (Virtual meeting)

**Task Force Meeting #1:** Monday, September 21, 2020 (Virtual meeting)

### **Future meetings** (Members of the COA are invited to attend):

**Focus Group Meeting:** Thursday, June 24, 2021, 7:00 PM (Virtual meeting)

For the public to discuss possible program requirements to address the key issues of the program:

- parking and sidewalk issues
- riding and safety issues
- managing complaints and issues
- too many scooters in some parts of the City
- not enough scooters in some parts of the City

**Task Force Meeting #4:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 7:00 PM (Virtual meeting)

This is the planned final meeting before City staff prepares for the City Council meeting in October.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/DocklessMobility>



# City of Alexandria, Virginia Commission on Aging

Division of Aging and Adult Services  
Department of Community and Human Services  
6101 Stevenson Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304  
703-746-5999  
<http://alexandriava.gov/Aging>  
[daas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:daas@alexandriava.gov)



**December 12, 2019**

Sent via email to Mr. Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES  
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES)  
Attn: Mr. Yon Lambert, Director  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**RE: T&ES Staff Recommendations-Scooter Phase II Pilot Program**

Dear Mr. Lambert,

As the principal advocate for issues related to aging and implementation of the Older Americans Act, The Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA) has elected to provide comments on T&ES staff recommendations for a Scooter Phase II Pilot Program. While the COA very much appreciates T&ES efforts to provide a responsive and accountable process for the Scooter Phase II Pilot Program, our comments submitted for your consideration advocate for maintaining and promoting safe sidewalk access for older residents, visitors, people on crutches, in wheel chairs, and for those pushing baby strollers.

First, given COA's understanding of the intended primary purpose of City sidewalks, we object to sidewalks being used for electric scooters. Simply stated, we understand that the primary purpose of sidewalks is to provide safe walking access for all residents as they pursue their daily routine such as shopping, going to medical appointments, and for visitors who are in the City for commerce or pleasure.

Second, we are aware and recognize that City sidewalks are being used for unintended purposes, such as electric scooters, which in our view, presents a public safety hazard to the elderly. As a result, given COA's purpose, we must object to the use of electric scooters on sidewalks until such time credible assurances are given verifying they are not a public safety hazard to members of the older population.

Furthermore, we recommend T&ES examine reasonable ways and means in which electric scooter companies may be required to allow parking of scooters only in certain designated areas. For the record, our members have observed for themselves and received feedback from older residents that scooters are often parked in the middle of a sidewalk right-of-way which presents a very clear public safety hazard, especially for those who are blind or vision-impaired.

In closing, COA appreciates T&ES efforts to help make Alexandria a safe, age friendly, livable City for all and want to thank you and your staff for the opportunity to offer informed constructive comments via letter. Should you or your staff have questions regarding COA's comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara H "Babs" Waters  
Chair, Commission on Aging

cc: City Manager, Attn: Mr. Mark Jinks  
Deputy City Manager, Attn: Ms. Emily Baker

## Background Information for Scooter Phase II Pilot

- In a letter to the Mayor and City Council on October 20, the Alexandria Transportation Commission recommended that City Council approve a Phase II Pilot Program for Dockless Mobility. The Transportation Commission voted *against* prohibiting e-scooters on all sidewalks in the City.
- T&ES proposed a Phase II E-Scooter Pilot for 2020, which was presented to City Council at the Legislative Session on November 26.
  - Council's questions and comments regarding the proposal were on the following topics: scooter sidewalk riding, scooter parking, equity (deployment in West End), and environmental impact.
  - Regarding sidewalk riding, the current T&ES recommendation for Phase II is to prohibit scooters on sidewalks in an area bounded by Cameron Street, the Potomac River, Prince Street, and West Street, with the option to include other areas in the future.
  - T&ES will revise its recommendations based on Council's input and present the revised package at the December 10 Legislative Session. Council is expected to approve or disapprove of the Phase II Pilot at the December 10 Legislative Session.
- Assuming that Council approves a Phase II Pilot, scooters ridden on sidewalks anywhere in the City are a danger to pedestrians as well as the scooter riders themselves.
  - Seniors and children are most likely to be seriously injured if hit by a scooter. Injuries also result from people tripping over parked scooters and lifting or carrying them,
    - A June 2019 Case Report published in the American Journal of Emergency Medicine cites a retrospective study where 75% of pedestrians injured in scooter accidents were between ages 0-14 or older than 60. Note that these were based on people presented to the ER; there is no data on injuries that did not result in an ER visit.
    - The Case Report further states that, "compared to electric scooter riders, pedestrians have higher rates of head, face, and neck injuries; traumatic brain injuries; and hospital stays lasting more than a week."
    - The Case Report also stated that such injuries may also result in financial burden due to medical expenses, required time off from work, and need for caregivers. Patients may also require prolonged rehabilitation therapies and medical intervention.