

Alexandria Commission on Aging Minutes
March 11, 2011
Virtual Meeting

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

Members Excused: Michael Kreps

Liaisons Present: Vanessa Greene, 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, Debbie Ludington, and Pamela Austin and, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Emilia Turcios, Workforce Dev. Center.

Guests Present: Jane King, COA Housing Committee; Canek Aquirre, Anthem Health Care / City Council; Gaynelle Diaz, ARHA; Geoffrey Caldwell, Econ. Opportunities Commission; Nicolas Joseph and Tom Reiter, PACE; Pat Killeen, PHAC; Paul Nasto, My Home Companion; Annabelle Reitman, COA Economic Dev. Committee; Allegra Joffe Fahringer, Millennial 50+ Ambassadors

1. Call to Order – Babs Waters called the meeting to order at 4pm
2. Welcomed guests
3. Approval of Agenda – no additions / changes
4. Approval of February 2021 minutes - approved
5. Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report – Sgt. Ian Torrance stated that City schools are open and asked for any questions or concerns. There were none.
6. Special Presentation: Bennett Downey, Esq. Managing Attorney Elder Law Practice Group, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Inc. Mr. Downey gave an overview of LSNV.
 - LSNV is a non-profit legal aid office
 - Assists clients with civil matters at no charge
 - Serves Alexandria City and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon and Prince Williams counties
 - Funding base is Federal, State and local funds as well as grants
 - Gives advice on issues such as Medicaid, Social Security, housing, consumer law, family law and elder law
 - Does not give advice on immigration or criminal issues
 - Can assist with tax disputes but not tax filing

7. Executive Committee Report – information previously distributed Babs noted that a new large COVID vaccination site will be opening soon in Alexandria. Information on DASH was shared and included the following information:
- Virtual meetings will be held based on geographical location – Debbie has previously forwarded this info to COA member.
 - Beginning 3/15 fares will be charged again via Smart Card or Smart app
 - Senior discounts will continue as will free fares for students
 - David Kaplan shared that DASH is implementing changes as a result of the Visioning Study last year and that DASH is waiting for notification if they will be receiving grant funds
8. Discussion / Action Items
- A. Age Friendly Plan update – Jane King will get in touch with committee chairs. The Age Friendly Eco-System Summit will be happening soon. Details will be forwarded when available.
- B. FY 2022 budget advocacy - during the add/delete session the COA will support the WDC part time position serving older adults be made full time
- 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 – Babs asked COA to send their birth dates without year to Debbie.
9. **Liaison Reports - Please provide a written summary to Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov**
1. Senior Services of Alexandria – Mary Lee Anderson shared: SSA is facilitating vaccine appointments for those aged 75+; talking with the Health Dept. about a mobile vaccine program for those that need them; SSA Virtual Gala is the upcoming Saturday. Gaynelle Diaz from ARHA thanked SSA for coordinating transportation to the vaccines. Trips are provided free of charge to DAAS clients through the Senior Taxi program.
 2. Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, NVFPA – Mary Lee Anderson shared that information will be coming soon.
 3. AHA – Jane King thanked SSA and Mary Lee Anderson and Cele Garrett for their work in facilitating vaccine appointments for seniors. AHA currently has a full range of zoom programs and is discussing new programs moving forward. AHA’s 10 Year Anniversary is in the Fall.
 4. NVAN – Babs Waters / Terri Lynch– information previously distributed Terri Lynched shared: the Medicaid dental benefit is effective July 1, 2021; paid sick leave will be available to home care workers in consumer directed care; increase in Medicaid rates for some providers of personal and respite care services. Canek Aquirre shared that he will share info on an upcoming zoom meeting regarding these issues and that Northern Virginia has been a positive catalyst for these changes.

5. St. Martins Senior Center – Anne Coyne– information previously distributed
 6. Commission for Women – Katherine Seifu shared that the CFW is working on an upcoming panel discussion.
 7. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria – Katherine Seifu shared that they meet next week.
 8. Commission on Persons with Disabilities – Michael Kamin shared that they met on March 3 and had an excellent presentation from the Office of Housing. He was astounded to learn how high the cost of housing is in Alexandria.
 9. Senior Center @ Charles Houston – Vanessa Green– information previously distributed
10. Committee Updates
1. Housing – Chair, Michael Schuster– information previously distributed
Michael shared that the committee is working on the priorities for the Age Friendly Plan
 2. Outreach Committee –, Victoria Almquist shared that there was no February meeting. Meeting in March will host a presentation on Senior Bullying
 3. Transportation – Chair, Ray Biegun– information previously distributed
 4. Economic Development – Chair, Mary Lee Anderson– information previously distributed
Mary Lee shared that the recent meeting focused on the WDC work as well as the initiative from Annabelle Reitman regarding entrepreneurship for older adults. Emilia Turcios will be working with Annabelle on this for the next 6 weeks.
 5. Health /Dementia Friendly Committee – Chair, Marjorie Conner shared that there are 2 upcoming trainings for Dementia Champions and Dementia Friends
 6. Advocacy – ad hoc– information previously distributed
11. Other Business: Del Pepper noted that Babs Waters spoke to City Council in support of the need for the WDC position serving older adults be made full time
12. New Business - none
13. Public comments – Annabelle Reitman shared that Alexandria public libraries will be opening with limited hours starting March 15th. It was also noted that Alexandria is hosting the March 18th NVAN meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Minutes will be presented at the April 8th Commission meeting.

Minutes prepared by



Debbie Ludington