

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.