

Alexandria Commission on Aging Minutes
June11, 2015

Members Present: Bob Eiffert , Carol Downs, Jan Macidull, Charles Bailey, Alan Dinsmore, Sean Dunbar, Cedar Dvorin, Anestacia Graham, Elisabeth Palmer Johnson, David Kaplan, Pat Killeen, Jane King, Mary Parker, Del Pepper, Marjorie Vanderbilt

Members Excused: Mary Lee Anderson, Joan Dodaro, Michael Kreps, Jim Lindsay,

Liaisons Present: Vanessa Greene, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Margaret Orlando, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Darrell Wesley, Alexandria Adult Day Services Center; Ian Torrance, Police Department

Staff Members Present: Terri Lynch, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Guests Present: Ann Marie Hay, Economic Opportunities Commission

1. **Call to order** at 4:00 PM (Bob Eiffert, Chair)
2. **Welcome to Guests.**
3. **Approval of May minutes:** Approved as written.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Special Presentation:** Economic Opportunities Commission, presented by Ann Marie Hay, Commission member.
 - a. Commission's charge: advocate for City's low income residents. Advises Office of Community and Human Services, advocates at local and state levels.
 - b. Commission composition: chair: Joe Valente. 18 members – 6 government; 6 low income or works with/advocates for low income; 6 catch-all. Looking for someone from immigrant community.
 - c. Top priorities: Affordable Housing, Employment.
 - d. Housing: Commission weighs in on affordable housing development projects. Legislative initiative supports Housing Trust fund. Signed onto Affordable Housing Coalition's 2016 Budget letter.
 - e. Employment: Legislative proposal last year supported "Ban the Box," signed by the Governor for State employees. Ban the Box prohibits initial job application forms from asking if applicant has ever been arrested. City has signed on to this.
 - f. Other legislative issues: Meet with Bernie Caton once a year to see what might fly with the state. Four topics last year: Medicaid expansion; pay day and abusive care lending practices; Ban the Box; raise and index the minimum wage.
 - g. Have speakers each meeting, e.g., Point in Time Count, BFAC, Housing.

- h. Homelessness: numbers have dropped as a whole but numbers of families with children have increased.
 - i. Domestic violence: increase in number of victims, perhaps more reporting due to national press coverage of women reporting cases involving major sports figures.
 - j. Discussion:
 - i. Common agenda items for our two commissions: affordable housing (highly prioritized in the ACSO Report) and Medicaid expansion.
 - ii. City of Alexandria, Office of Community Services Community Services Block Grant Agency Client Demographic Report (7/1/2014-5/31/2015) identified 481 clients age 55 and above. 215 families were on Social Security, 32 had pension income.
 - iii. Increased attention is being given to “housing first” for homeless individuals and families.
 - iv. Keeping each other apprised of concerns and activities can be done through the DCHS web-based program for Boards and Commissions (contact: Paul Kim, promoted by Kate Garvey).
6. **Swearing in of 2016-2017 Commission Officers:** Council member, Del Pepper swore in Chair, Carol Downs; Vice Chair, Bob Eiffert; and Secretary, Sean Dunbar. Officer duties will commence immediately following this meeting, including the Executive Committee meeting on July 7 at which 2016 legislative priorities will be discussed
7. **Development Update:** Council member Pepper noted that another memory care center is being proposed near the corner of Van Dorn and South Pickett streets. Nurses will be on site. It will be in a building seven stories high, with retail below. The project will be acted upon by Council this Saturday. Developer money will go into the Housing Trust Fund. Unknown whether or not there will be affordable/low income units.
8. **Executive Committee Report:**
- a. Bob Eiffert reminded members that the next Commission meeting will be in September.
 - b. Kate Garvey’s meeting with Commission heads is August 3 and will be attended by Carol Downs.
 - c. Upcoming COA meetings: a list of proposed presentations has been forwarded to members. Please forward additional ideas to Carol. (See “d,” below.)
 - d. Council has accepted resignations of Ben Kellom and Anne Marie Pittman. Goal is to fill these positions in September, ensuring that at least 11 members are age 60 and above. Priority is to recruit young Black men and Hispanics.
 - i. An extended discussion ensued of ways to better attract and involve Blacks and Hispanics to the Commission. Attending senior center day programs will improve relations with both staff and clientele of programs serving large numbers of Blacks, Hispanics

and other immigrants. It was suggested that visits be made to Charles Houston - open for visitors between 8-2, M-W and F (call Vanessa Greene ahead: 703-746-5456).

- ii. Strongly suggested: a Commission program on “The African American Aging Experience.” Note: this may be a topic of interest to several commissions.

9. **Committee Reports:** Note: Members requested an email list of committee meeting times and locations.

a. Housing:

- i. Jan Macidull reported that Michelle Krockner of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance met with several committee members to explore potential interest in a more formalized Alexandria Affordable Housing Coalition, staffed by Michelle with outside funding. Committee members were enthusiastic.
- ii. Planning and Zoning’s Director, Karl Moritz, with support from Housing Director, Helen McIlvaine presented P&Z’s development process to Committee members May 18. The development proposal for the new memory care center was not mentioned in this presentation. ACTION: The Commission will request that any development proposal related to older people be brought to the attention of the Commission as soon as it is in the formal P&Z process.
- iii. Discussion: Agreed that multi-commission coordination makes sense related to any new housing, assisted living project.

- b. Advocacy and Legislation: Bob Eiffert indicated that NVAN priorities go out to Commission members and that feedback should go directly to Terri Lynch.

- c. Communications: Carol Downs reported that the next meeting is July 8, 3PM, at her home. Requested: get top three priorities to Carol for the City budget.

d. Transportation:

- i. Alan Dinsmore reported that the next meeting is June 18. David Kaplan announced success in addressing Claridge House resident complaints about changes in DASH routes to Eisenhower Avenue. A solution has been created, resulting in more service on weekend, starting August 9. A larger schedule change will occur in the fall. – see attached
- ii. Age Friendly Community Program Application Status: Jane King walked members through the application process, including key City players to be consulted with. Jane met with Complete Streets Coordinator, Hillary Poole, to discuss the draft of Alexandria specific standards for this Program.

- iii. Alan is attending the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee meetings. Suggested: To ensure aging resident concerns are addressed near where aging people live, do an overlay of the dot map where seniors live in relations to pedestrian and bicycle (and development) plans. David noted that money for traffic light countdowns was cut in the 2016 Complete Streets Budget.
- e. Strategic Planning: Jane King announced that a draft of the Age Friendly Community Program application will come to the Commission at the September meeting.

10. Liaison Reports

- a. Commission on Disabilities: Mary Parker noted that results of the Developmental Disabilities survey are due July 9. The annual awards ceremony will take place June 23, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. – see attached
- b. Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria: Mary Parker noted “Aging Well in Place” is one of the Partnership’s priority areas. Copies of materials available by contacting Debbie Ludington at 703.746.5694 or Debbie.ludington@alexandriava.gov
- c. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities: Commission members discussed the possibility of a quarterly newsletter for the Power Plus Program.
- d. Senior Services of Alexandria: A health fair will be the next major event at the Nannie Lee Center.
- e. Successful Aging: Darrell Wesley noted there will be another walkathon in September to support this program.
- f. DAAS: Terri Lynch, Acting Director, announced that an RFP for home care services will be on the street next week. Recruitment for a permanent DAAS Director is moving toward conclusion.
- g. Commission for Women: Elisabeth Palmer Johnson announced their next meeting is September 9.
- h. AHA: Carol Downs reported on collaborative programs being done with Goodwin House at Home. Next session July 15 is on Decluttering and Downsizing, 1-3PM at Goodwin House, Bailey’s Crossroads.
- i. AARP Virginia: Pat Killeen noted that he and Carol Downs are working on the statewide care giving group in Northern Virginia. This will involve forming support groups, developing collaboration among all kinds of groups, doing presentations and other communications.
- j. VICAP: Cedar Dvorin will be doing a “New to Medicare” presentation at the Health Department July 2nd.
- k. AHAC – see attached

11. **New Business:** Charles Bailey alerted members to potential identity theft problems resulting from having one’s social security number and signature on their Medicare card. Questioned was whether or not this is on AARP’s Policy Agenda.

12. **Adjournment:** 6:15 PM

Transportation Committee Meeting
June 4, 2015

Alan Dinsmore Committee Chair
David Kaplan
Cedar Dvorin
Jane King

The committee agreed that Jane King's memo of her meeting with Hillary Poole could serve as the template for developing standards and indicators for the AARP Age-Friendly Cities project as well as a work plan for the committee for the remainder of the year. We discussed the standards below:

1. Transport Stops and Stations. David will confirm that Alexandria has adopted the WMATA guidelines on accessibility, seating, and shelter. Alan will check with Hillary and we should then understand the scope of the WMATA guidelines, what they do not deal with, and the City's plans to operate within those guidelines. David will also determine the number of bus stops in Alexandria, both DASH and WMATA.
2. Provision of information in complete and accessible form on routes, schedules, and special needs facilities. Cedar will check on ADA standards for signage. WMATA guidelines will be checked regarding provision of schedule information.
3. A voluntary transport service is available where public transport is unavailable. With the exception of At Home in Alexandria and the senior taxi service (not a volunteer operation) the city does not have anything like this. Alan is following up to see what we might learn from Fairfax County.
4. Pavements are well designed and free of obstructions for pedestrians. There are ADA guidelines/standards for sidewalk design at crossings but no such standards for other sidewalks. We may want to make this a high profile activity for the committee through our representation on the Alexandria pedestrian and bicycle advisory committee.
5. Pedestrian crossings. We noted that Hillary Poole, Safe Streets Coordinator feels that we are in pretty good shape on this item but help is needed in getting drivers to obey the pedestrian in cross walk rules. This could be another continuing agenda item for the committee.

We will meet again on June 18, 2015 at 6:30PM.

REPORT ON THE JUNE 10, 2015 MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

FROM: MARY H. PARKER, PhD, Liaison

The Commission elected Molly Danforth as Chair and Doug Goist as Vice Chair.

Mary Parker reported on the PACE presentation at the May Commission on Aging Meeting, based upon the minutes.

There was discussion of the sidewalk improvements around town and a decision to invite Stafe Streets Coordinator to an ACPD meeting to discuss alternative plans for sidewalk Corner curb cut configurations.

The Commission also discussed the Draft he Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Case Study Areas and members were assigned areas to study.

Member Robert Pasternack called the Commission's attention to the

the survey request from the Virginia Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Mr. pasternack will report suggestions to the ACPD meeting to be held after the June 23 Awards Ceremony.

The Alexandria Commission on Aging members are cordially invited to attend the June 23, 2015 Awards Ceremony and Reception to be held in the Vola Lawson Lobby at City Hall, 5:30PM to 7:00 PM.

Th ACPD/Chamber of Commerce awards will be made to the Neighborhood Restaurant Group, for their employment of persons with disabilities, and the Alexandria Senior Services, for their services to persons with disabilities. Iman Smallwood will receive the Bertier Scholarship Award and Past ACPD Chair, Chuck Benagh will receive the John Duty Collins Award.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission on Aging
FROM: Bill Harris, CoA Liaison to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
DATE: June 4, 2015
SUBJECT: Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Report

The AHAC met in its regular meeting at 7 PM today in room 2000 at City Hall.

A report was given by Planning Department staff on the Oakville Triangle/route 1 Corridor Planning Study. Community stakeholders and city staff have been meeting for a couple of years looking at this largely commercial site because of its proximity to the newly planned Metro station in Potomac Yard, a little more than half a mile. The site is on the west side of route US 1 between East Glebe Road and Fannon Street with Mt Jefferson Park as the southwest boundary. Plans call mostly for ground floor commercial with residential housing above, in varying heights. Current planning calls for 65 +/- affordable apartments, with possibly a few ARHA apartments in addition. The affordable apartments are expected to be built gradually over the next 20 years.

Doug Owens reporting for ARHA advised all administrative offices were in place and operating on June 1st in the newly renovated ARHA headquarters building at 401 Wythe Street. He reported bidders have been chosen to present proposals for redeveloping the five selected sites and their proposals are due in the ARHA office by June 19th. He further reported ARHA has received a \$100,000 planning grant for remodeling and updating the Ladrey building with 190 units currently restricted to elderly and disabled. *(ARHA has known for some time that housing for younger disabled people in the same building as elderly people is not a good mix, and once remodeled will be for elderly residents only. A study commissioned by ARHA several years ago pointed out this mismatch and recommended at the time the building be used exclusively by elderly.)* They are also in the process of looking for additional required funding. Work on the Ladrey is expected to begin sometime in 2016.

The AHAC Chair announced a special meeting of AHAC is called for June 17th, 7:00 PM at City Hall in room 2000. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the Housing Master Plan, and more specifically the top three or four tools best suited for developing affordable housing.

Following discussion of a number of housekeeping matters the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

For any questions I can be reached at wpharris@comcast.net or 703-684-6432.