

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING

MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Chair, Babs Waters; Canek Aguirre; Mary Lee Anderson; Ray Biegun; Joanne Broderick; Barbara D’Agostino; Dawn Higgins; Barabara Huelat; Michael Kamin; Michael Kreps; Karen McKeon; Ellen Nelson; Tom Reeder; Michael Schuster; Lois Steele; Jenn Stowe; William Campbell.

Members Excused: David Kaplan; Gerri Wallace; Jim Lindsay

Liaisons Present: Anne Coyne; Ian Torrance; Pamela Guerra ; Jan Macidull; Margaret Orlando; Evelyn Quiles, Darrell Wesley.

Staff Members Present: Pam Austin; Kim Taylor; Sharnee Eure; Christopher Moore.

Guests Present: Zeina Azzam; Gaynelle Diaz; Michael Doyle; Cedar Dvorin; Bob Eiffert; Jane King; Jonathon Krall; Jessica LeFevre; Kim Taylor.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Babs Waters called the June meeting of the Commission on Aging (“COA”) to order at 4:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The May minutes were approved unanimously with two corrections: Jenn Stowe was officially excused from attending the May meeting, and Karen McKoen was present at the May meeting.
4. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Sgt. Torrance gave an update on the March 29th accident involving an older pedesdrian. He answered some questions relating to the recent alleged murder of an Alexandria City High School student at the Bradlee Centre. He said that the City Council has approved entending the use of Special Officers (SRO) in Alexandria City Public Schools for another year.
5. **Special Presentation:** Mr. Michael Doyle of Families for Safe Streets presented. In 2016, he was severely injured in an accident involving a driver who failed to yield to Mr. Doyle who was legitimately in the crosswalk of an intersection. Ever since he has been an advocate for safe streets. Their website is www.alxffss.org. Residents who have near misses while walking or cycling can record the information on the website. As of June 2022, there were 1,393 near misses reported. Most of the “near misses” involve negligent or distracted drivers. Mr. Doyle encouraged the Commission to get the word out about his organization, especially in non-English communities, where he believes there is underreporting of near misses. He said they will be working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to intergrate their crash data with the near miss data.

6. **Executive Committee Report.** Materials were part of the Agenda.

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

- a. **Update on COA Excellence in Aging Awards, scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 via Zoom – Barbara D’Agostino.** Barbara thanked Babs and Pam Austin for all of their preparatory work leading up to the May 10th award ceremony, presided over by Mayor Justin Wilson. The winners were: Susanne Adams (Annie B. Rose Lifetime Achievement Award); Babs Waters and Frederick Readon (Lois Van Valkenburg Excellence in Aging Award for an Individual); Home Aid Northern Virginia (Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization); Terri Lynch (Public Service Award).
- b. **Age-Friendly Final Reports to be sent to AARP.** Jane King would like to complete the evaluations by the end of June, and finalize the new plan by September.
- c. **Draft Testimony on the 2023 FY Draft Annual Plan for Housing and Community Development.** Michael Schuster reported that the hearing went well, and that the vice mayor seemed interested in the Commission’s focus on Mixed Income and Affordable Assisted Living.
- d. **Covid-19 Vaccination Updates.** Gerri Wallace reported that under the new CDC criteria that Alexandria is still in the Medium range. As of June 8th, the City of Alexandria reports that 77.2% or 119,522 residents are fully vaccinated, and 85.5% or 131,583 are either partially or fully vaccinated. In Virginia, over 7 million or 824% received at least one vaccination, and over 6 million or 73.8% are fully vaccinated. For questions about Covid-19, call 703-746-4988, and to get alerts, text ALEXCOVID19 to 888777.
- e. **Installation of COA 2022-2033 Officers:** Michael Schuster, Chair; Barbara D’Agostino, Vice Chair; and Barbara Heulat, Secretary, were sworn in as the new officers of the COA by Councilmember, Canek Aquirre.

8. **Liaison Report**

- a. *Division of Aging and Adult Services.* Christopher Moore, the director of the division, updated the commission on activities within the division. He welcomed the new DAAS Management Analyst, Sharnee Eure
- b. *AHA.* Bob Eiffert said they are doing in-person events. In June, they will celebrate their 11 year anniversary.
- c. *AARP.* Jane King said that AARP had a picnic for its volunteers. They are doing programs on decluttering, downsizing, Social Security, drug prices and current movies.
- d. *Human Rights Commission –* Tom Reeder said his first meeting of the commission was on May 27, 2022. The committee discussed a “rainbow crosswalk” which the Alexandria City is not in favor of because of federal regulations.

- e. *Virginia Hospital Center* -No report. Its new name is “VHC Health.”
 - f. *Commission for Women*. Nothing to report.
 - g. *Commission on Persons with Disabilities*. Michael Kamin reported that they have met in person three times. They discussed issues around scooters, and the lack of prompt response to complaints. They also discussed concerns about employment discrimination.
 - h. NVAN – NVAN will meet again on July 19th to finally approve the three legislative and three budget platform statements dealing with evictions, electronic meetings, guardians and conservators, sick leave for all care workers, funding options for assisted living and nursing home staffing standards.
 - i. *Senior Center at Charles Houston*. Pam Guerra said they reopened on a full schedule.
- 9.
- a. *Arlington Legislative Committee*.
 - b. *St. Martins Senior Center*. Anne Coyne submitted a written report as part of the Agenda packet.
 - i. *Senior Services of Alexandria*. Mary Lee reported on the upcoming speaker’s series. The Health Fitness Fair at the Lee Center was a success. More than 80 people attended and the Health Department gave free vaccinations. The Senior Law Day – “What I Wish I knew” - on June 4th had over 200 attendees and many information booths throughout the venue. The Senior Academy will be meeting in September.
 - j. *Alexandria Commission on Employment*. Evelyn Quiles gave a report on the Work Development Center. The work experience program has enrolled 46 persons, 66% of their goal. The average wage is \$18.52. Thirty one participants have completed the program. Twenty three percent of the participants are 55+. Their goal is to place participants into permanent jobs. The Center is looking for more host employers.
 - k. *Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Alliance, NVFPA*. Mary Lee Anderson said the Alliance’s federal grant will not be extended and they are looking for additional sources of funding.
 - l. *Successful Aging*. Margaret Orlando said the intergenerational dance in collaboration with the Alexandria High School was held on Friday, May 13th with over 80 participants, including 25-30 high school seniors.
 - m. *Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities*. Margaret Orlando said her department worked at the Health Fair, summer classes have started, and the outdoor pools are open.

- n. *Alexandria Adult Day Services Center.* Darrell Wesley said that participants are slowly coming back to the center. The Center is seeing improvement in the mental health of the participants. The Center has hired a recreational therapist.
- o. *Housing Affordability Advisory Committee.* Jan Macidull submitted a written report. She also gave an oral report on the developments on the Hillco development at the old power plant location.

10. **Committee Updates.**

- a. *Housing.* At the June meeting, Tamara Jovovic gave a presentation on some proposed practical changes to the developer affordable housing contribution policy.
- b. *Outreach.* The Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30m
- c. *Transportation.* The Committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month.
- d. *Economic Development.* Mary Lee Anderson gave a brief report.
- e. *Strategic Planning.*
- f. *Health/Dementia Friendly.* Barbara Huelat reported that June is Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

11. **Other Business.** None.

12. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Minutes will be presented at the Thursday, September 8, 2022, COA meeting for approval. The next Executive Committee meeting is on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Michael Schuster, COA Secretary.
