

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING

MEETING MINUTES

*September 8, 2022 – Approved on October 13, 2022
At the Landing Alexandria 2620 Main Line Blvd
4–6 pm*

Members Physically Present: Chair, Michael Schuster; Ray Biegun; Bill Campbell; Dawn Higgins; Barbara Huelat; David Kaplan; Jessica LeFevre; Karen McKeon; Tom Reeder; Lois Steele; Jenn Stowe; Gerri Wallace

Members Attending Remotely: Michael Kreps; Jim Lindsey

Members Attending Remotely for Medical Reasons: Mary Lee Anderson; Joanne Broderick.

Members Excused: Canek Aguirre; Barbara D’Agostino; Ellen Nelson; Babs Waters

Members Unexcused: Michael Kamin

Liaisons Present: Blanca Cali; Anne Coyne; Linc Cummings; Bob Eiffert; Pamela Guerra; Ian Torrance; Jane King

Guests Present: Gaynell Diaz; Cedar Dvorin; Jonathan Krall; Jenny Y; Annmarie Yoder

Staff Present: Pam Austin; Chris Moore

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Michael Schuster called the September meeting of the Commission on Aging ("COA") to order at 4:03 pm. Michael noted that if you can't make the meeting in person, please notify the chair in advance of the meeting.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Sgt. Torrance gave an update on shots fired on the West End in June. The victim died. A suspect was apprehended. He also mentioned an incident involving a collision between a scooter and car. The collision happened at the intersection of N. Beauregard Street and Sanger Avenue at 10:17 p.m. Saturday, August 27th. The scooter was making a left turn from Beauregard while going southbound, while the car was headed northbound. The driver stayed on the scene to report the incident to police. The 16-year-old riding the scooter was taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries.
5. **Special Presentation: None were presented today.** Michael asked for presentation suggestions.

6. **Executive Committee Report.** Materials were part of the agenda and discussed as part of the meeting.

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

A. **All-Virtue Public Meetings.** Review and discuss electronic/zoom meeting policy. Please see the policy attached to the agenda handout.

B. **Presented to Vote.** Bill Campbell made a motion that the policy be approved. Ray Biegun seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Some commissioners asked if we had to approve the new policy. Michael Schuster said that in October 2021, the Commission approved the policy for individual remote attendances. However, this revised policy covered virtual meetings for the entire Commission and its committees, limited to two per calendar year. In order to avail itself of the virtual meeting exception to in person meetings in the Virginia FOIA, the Commission must approve the revised language provided by the Alexandria City Attorney. Chris Moore suggested that the Commission indicate in its approval that the policy could be revisited, allowing more flexibility for virtual meetings. Jessica LeFevre presented an amendment to the motion, as follows, "the Commission accepts the policy with a proviso that the Commission wants greater flexibility in holding virtual meetings." Bill Campbell seconded the amended motion. Pursuant to the by-laws, a majority of those present had to vote in favor of the motion for it to pass. Michael Schuster, Mary Lee Anderson; Ray Biegun; Joanne Broderick; Bill Campbell; Dawn Higgins; Barbara Huelat; David Kaplan; Michael Kreps; Jessica LeFevre; Karen McKeon; and Gerri Wallace voted in favor of the motion. Lois Steele opposed, and Tom Reeder abstained. The motion, as amended, passed 12-1-1.

C. **COVID Update.** Gerri Wallace made the following report:

MONKEYPOX - City of Alexandria's website under the *Health Department News* links to the latest health information. [Health Department News | the City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](https://www.alexandriava.gov/health-department-news).

Public health officials plan to discuss monkeypox and how the virus spread, its common symptoms, and vaccine eligibility on September 14 at @6:30p.m. To register, go to alexandriava.gov/monkeypox.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA – Alexandria CDC Covid-19 Measures COVID-19 Community Level is LOW. On September 2, 2022, the City of Alexandria reported 77.5% or 121,950 fully vaccinated AND 85.2% or 134,086 partially and fully vaccinated.

Demographics include City-wide: Ages 55-64 = 54K or 80.1%. Ages 65-74 = 10K or 88%. Ages 75-84 = 5K or 88.9%. Ages 85+ = 1,600 or 72.4%.

Hospital admissions per 100k are 4.5 = LOW. Inpatient Bed percentage is 4% = LOW.

STATE OF VIRGINIA - On September 7, across the state of VA, 7.092 million or 82.6% received a least one vaccine, and 6.2 million or 72.5% were fully vaccinated. Demographics include State-wide: Ages 55-64 = 1M. Ages 65-74 = 800K. Ages 75-84 = 400K. Overall, 65+ ages = 1.3M with a 96% rate of vaccinated people. **CDC website for Health Topics from A-Z.:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/health-topics.html>

Mary Lee added the new bivalent booster vaccine is now available for those over the age of 12.

8. **Liaison Report**

- a. Update on COA. Chris Moore gave an update on the centenarian celebration at city hall next week.
- b. Commission on Women. Jenn Stowe presented that the Commission on Women will hold an outreach retreat on Saturday, 9/10/22. The goal is collaboration with other commissions and visibility.
- c. AARP. – Jane King. Moving to in person events. There has been considerable support from the state office for these events. Jane King said that the Age Friendly final report would be sent to AARP for its approval.
- d. NVAN. Bob Eiffert reported for Babs. Bob said that at the next NVAN meeting on September 20th at 9:30 (Zoom). They will discuss the legislative breakfast on September 30th at the Fairfax Country Club. He said that he chairs the Electronic Meeting Committee of NVAN, and that Michael Schuster chairs the Evictions Committee.
- e. VHC Health. Blanca Cali reported that VHC would hold Healthy Aging webinars on fall prevention. They also have Stretch Sessions for Seniors every 3rd Wednesday at the Gum Springs Community Center in Fairfax County starting at 12:30 PM.
- f. Partnership for Healthier Alexandria. Joanne Broderick reported the RFP for 5 small grants would be forthcoming.
- g. Public Health Advisory Commission. Joanne Broderick reported the Commission would meet on the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm
- h. Senior Center at Charles Houston. Pam Guerra report attached to agenda. The Center will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Oct 19. Invite will be coming.
- i. St. Martins de Porres Senior Center. Anne Coyne provided a report- see attachment to agenda.
- j. Senior Services of Alexandria. Mary Lee reported that Senior Academy will be starting this week. The Centenarian event is next Tuesday – September 13th. Thirteen centenarians will be honored at the event at which Mayor Justin Wilson will preside. Other programs include a walkathon on 9/20 and the Octoberfest Fall fundraiser on 10/6 at 6 pm.
- k. Alexandria Commission on Employment. Mary Lee reported meeting to be held next week.
- l. Arlington Commission on Aging. Linc Cummings reported Arlington is collaborating with Alexandria to share activities. Evidence-based study to teach fall prevention to those with memory problems.
- m. Alexandria Adult Day Services Center. No report.

9. **Committee Updates.**

- A. Housing Committee Chair. Michael Schuster reported they have not yet met but will meet on September 19th.
- B. Outreach. The Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30m
- C. Transportation. The Committee met yesterday to discuss buses, the Duke Street project, outreach in October, and citizen input. Report following.
- D. Economic Development. Mary Lee Anderson. See attached report
- E. Health/Dementia Friendly. Barbara Huelat reported the Committee would meet on the first Thursday of the month at 4 pm. Location to be determined.

10. **Other Business.** Department of Community and Human Services RFP for the Alexandria Human Services Fund to be forthcoming in October. Process and priorities to be considered in conjunction with Age Friendly Report and other strategic plans.

11. **Public Comments.**

- A. Jonathan Krall asked Commission to consider support for Medicare for All. Mr. Krall will send a draft letter to Health/Dementia Friendly Committee for review and consideration.
- B. Jenny Y, Alexandria resident, former volunteer for Senior Services of Alexandria and psychiatrist also asked the CoA to join her and other Alexandria residents to support Medicare for All. In her work she has seen many citizens of Alexandria suffer from the effects of losing their healthcare, having to ration their medication, being burdened by unaffordable health care bills and enduring caregiver burnout from being unable to access affordable care for their vulnerable loved ones.
- A. Cedar Dvorin said she is working with a group of Alexandria residents who would like the Commission on Aging to send a letter asking the city council to pass a resolution in favor of Medical for All. The CoA Aging Racial Social Equity Committee's statement has been included in the CoA's agenda for several months. She noted that an excerpt from the statement "'We are committed to ensuring older persons have access to health care.'" It also says- "Older adults and persons with serious medical conditions often experience various degrees of inequity, particularly in obtaining access to health care. She said "it is clear that you recognize and care about problems with access to health care - even for people with Medicare as it is now. We would like the opportunity to discuss the Medicare for All bills and how, if enacted, the issues you bring up in your statement and much more, would be addressed. Thank you."

12. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Minutes will be presented at the Thursday, October 13, 2022, COA meeting for approval. The next Executive Committee meeting is on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Barbara Huelat, COA Secretary.
