

# ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

*February 9, 2023 – DRAFT  
In person Meeting (DASH Headquarters)  
4-6 PM*

**Members Physically Present:** Chair, Michael Schuster; Barbara D’Agostino, Canek Aguirre, Barbara Huelat, David Kaplan, Jessica Lefevre, Jim Lindsay, Lois Steele, Mary Lee Anderson, Thomas Reeder, Jenn Stowe

**Members Attending Remotely for Medical Reasons:** Ray Biegun, Joanne Broderick, Gerri Wallace, Karen McKeon

**Members Attending Remotely for Personal Reasons:** Joy Kone

**Members Excused:** Ellen Nelson, Dawn Higgin

**Members Unexcused:** William Campbell

**Liaisons Present:** Ian Torrance, Alexandria Police Department; Pamela Guerra, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Harold Little, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**Guests Present:** Josh Baker and Raymond Mui, DASH; Gaynelle Diaz, ARHA; Bob Eiffert, Housing Committee; Jan Macidull, Housing Committee; Jane King, COA Housing Committee; Marshall Hespe, Senior Services of Alexandria; Linc Cummings, Arlington Commission on Aging; Alan Dinsmore, Transportation Committee

**Staff Members Present:** Chris Moore (Virtual), Ashley Johnson, Pam Austin, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Ashley Sellman, Workforce Development Center

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Michael Schuster called the January meeting of the Commission on Aging ("COA") to order at 4:08 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the January meeting were approved.
4. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Sgt. Torrance did not have any updates for the commission. He discussed the upcoming citizen academy for Alexandria residents. In response to a question, he said the Alexandria police work with the METRO police to control METRO stations and special events.

5. **Special Presentations:** Josh Baker, the general manager of DASH, welcomed the Commission to DASH headquarters, and gave a review of DASH's activities. Specifically, he discussed DASH's major projects: fleet replacement with electrification; facility expansion with electrification; and the new DASH network resulting in increased ridership. He also discussed the bus stop inventory project to ascertain those bus stops which are not ADA compliance, and DASH's plans to bring them into compliance. Finally, Josh described the DASH Advisory Committee of DASH riders and others; he encouraged the commission to recommend applicants for membership on the committee. Raymond Mui, the assistant general manager, lead a tour of the facility for commissioners willing to stay after the meeting. The DASH website is: <https://www.dashbus.com/>.

Gaynelle Diaz of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) discussed their plans on relocating residents during the demolition and redevelopment of the Ladrey building. All residents there now will be assisted in finding a temporary housing placement and will be given the right to return once Ladrey has been redeveloped. Of the 170 units at the facility, 164 are currently occupied. Several commissioners raised the issue of how ARHA will conduct the relocation and involving the residents in the planning process. Gaynelle said that there are monthly engagement meetings with residents, and they are being counseled by a contractor, Housing to Home. The entire process from demolition to redevelopment will take approximately two years.

6. **Executive Committee Report.** There was nothing to report since the Executive Committee did not meet in February.

7. **Discussion/Action Items:**

- **Covid-19 Updates** – Gerri Wallace was not present. Michael gave her report, as follows:

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

Alexandria CDC Covid-19 Measures COVID-19 Community Level Transmission rate is **LOW** as of February 2, 2023. The City of Alexandria reports 80.5% or 126,819 fully vaccinated AND 86.7% or 136,571 partially vaccinated.

Hospital admissions per 100k is 7.4 = LOW. Inpatient Bed is 9.10% = LOW; although the numbers are LOW, the percentages are increasing.

**STATE OF VIRGINIA**

As of January 31, 2022, across the state of VA , 6.3M, or 73.7% fully vaccinated. Demographics include State-wide: Ages 65+ people vaccinated 95.2%

CDC website for Health Topics from A-Z  
<https://www.cdc.gov/health-topics.html>

- **Age Friendly Plan** – Michael gave an update. Jane King will bring in a draft of the final report at the next meeting. All of the goals have been accomplished. All thanked Jane for the outstanding job she has done on this project.
- **City Budget Process**- Bob Effiert will contact Morgan Routt, the Office of Management of the Budget for a meeting in early March to discuss the City Manager’s proposed city budget. Michael said that the Advocacy Committee will be convened in early March to hear from Mr. Routt. Jessica LeFevre has volunteered to join the committee.

## 8. **Liaison Reports**

- a. **Division of Aging and Adult Services** (<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging> ) – Chris Moore, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, discussed the status of the \$700,000 supplemental budget to replace Older American Act funds for the 11 area agencies on aging that will lose money under the new intrastate funding formula. The DAAS move has finally happened to 4850 Mark Center Drive going forward. Adult Day Center now has a P.T. RAFT program – A program to support dementia and mental health in the community. Chris will send a flyer to the committee.  
<https://www.raftnorthernvirginia.org/RAFT-Dementia-Support-Program-Eligibility-and-Referrals/Make-a-Referral-to-RAFT-Dementia-Support-Program>
- b. **INOVA Alexandria Hospital**- no one present to report.
- c. **Arlington legislative committee meeting** – There was no meeting in February.
- d. **Human Rights Commission** – Tom Reeder. Tom discussed the Senior Academy and the work of the commission.
- e. **At Home Alexandria (AHA)**--Bob Eiffert- Nothing to report.
- f. **Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria**- Joanne Broderick – No new report.
- g. **AARP** – Nothing to report.
- h. **NVAN** – The Alexandria COA will host the March 21<sup>st</sup> NVAN meeting.
- i. **St. Martin de Porres Senior Center** – No report. Anne Coyne has retired from the Center and her successor will attend the next COA meeting.
- j. **Senior Center at Charles Houston** – Pamela Guerra, nothing else to add.

- k. **Senior Services of Alexandria** - Mary Lee Anderson- Next week there is a workshop: *A Morning with C. Thomas, Spoken Word Poet* - Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 10 at Beatley Library. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, there is a workshop, Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors at 10 am, Beth El Hebrew Congregation. Older adults will hear from several local non-profits about all the volunteering opportunities available. Finally, SSA will have its Annual Gala and Silent Auction on March 25. The Honorees this year will be Donita Greene; Retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne; the late Honorable Kerry Donley; and the Rev. Dr. George Pera.
  - l. **Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Alliance, NVFPA.** Mary Lee Anderson said the Fall program is coming to senior centers at Patrick Henry, St Martins, and Charles Houston Centers.
  - m. **Alexandria Commission on Employment.** Mary Lee Anderson introduced Ashley Sellman, who just started her new role at the Workforce Development Center,
  - n. **Successful Aging** – Harold Little. Reported that they are having a Valentine's Day event for seniors at Lee Center; the committee is doing well, and activities are returning to the centers.
  - o. **Alexandria Adult Day Services Center, ADSC** – No update.
  - p. **Economic Development Committee.** Mary Lee Anderson- nothing to report.
  - q. **Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, AHAAC** – Jan Macidull. Nothing new to report.
  - r. **Commission for Women-** Jenn Stowe said the commission hosted a panel on human trafficking, funding, and policy programs. The committee will share a recording of the panel presentation. An event is being planned to celebrate their 50-year anniversary.
  - s. **Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.** - Harold Little – The facilities are opening back up and have programs throughout the city; new pool coming online at Minnie Howard with warm pool for older adults. All events are listed and can be found on the website [www.Alexandria.gov/recreation](http://www.Alexandria.gov/recreation). Older adults receive a 20 % discount.
9. **Committee Updates.**
- a. **Outreach.** The Committee – Co-Chair Ray Biegun and Barbara D’Agostino reported. The committee will meet on February 23, 2023.

- b. **Transportation** – Co-Chairs David Kaplan & Bill Campbell. The Committee will meet on March 1, at Charles Houston Center. The guest speaker is an advocate on bike safety.
  - c. **Housing Committee**- Lois Steele said at their last meeting they discussed how the COA can be a more effective advocate on affordable housing issues.
  - d. **Health/Dementia Friendly**. Barbara Huelat – Met last Thursday to plan new goals and events—report to follow.
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- 10. **Other Business.** None
  - 11. **New Business.** None
  - 12. **Public Comments.** None
  - 13. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.

The minutes will be presented for approval at the COA meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at The Landing.

**Next COA Meeting:** at The Landing on March 9, 2023.

The next Executive Committee meeting date is February 27, 2023, at the Landing.

*Minutes prepared by* Barbara Huelat, COA Secretary.

