

Final minutes as approved by the COA on July 16, 2008

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING**

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Braddock Hall – 9002 Burke Lake Road Burke, VA

The meeting of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) was called to order by Tena Bluhm, Chair, at 1:05 p.m. in the Braddock District Conference Room.

Commissioners present: Tena Bluhm, Elly Doyle, Eileen Duggan, Jack Fritz, Sally Hottle, Danielle Wight, Joe Heastie, George Myers

Commissioners absent: Anita Kapper

Staff present: Grace Starbird, Carolyn Carter, Ursula Barretta, Brenda McGrail

Others present: Victoria Schall, Northern Virginia Legal Services

Adoption of Minutes

Chairperson Tena Bluhm presented to the Commissioners the draft minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting for approval. The minutes were read, moved to a motion to adopt by Eileen Duggan, seconded by Danielle Wight and unanimously accepted without change.

Presentation: Transit Developmental Plan

Rollo Axton, *Chief of Transit Services Division, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)*, thanked the Commission for their support of the bus shelter advertisement program. He introduced Randall White, *Countywide Transit Services Coordinator, FCDOT*, and Lora Byala, *Consultant to the project as Project Manager, A Total Consultant Services (ATCS)*.

As an introduction to the presentation, Mr. Axton mentioned the current study which is evaluating existing corridor services on connector buses, evaluating proposed bus services in the light of future land use (with congestion in mind), examining current and projected demographic data, and outreach to public civic associations, the Chamber of Commerce, and key groups.

Lora Byala presented the Commissioners with the Fairfax Connector and Metrobus Service Transit Development Plan (TDP) process designed to coordinate and optimize existing Metrobus and Connector Services to address the changing demands in Fairfax County.

Key points of Ms. Byala's presentation were the mention of the use of paper and telephone surveys for residents' (non-riders and riders) attitude and opinions towards the existing services; the identification of potential lots and expansion of existing lots for Park and Ride development so that residents can drive and park to get on the bus; countywide public meetings to solicit input on current and proposed services; presentations and briefings to the Disability Services Board, Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), Board of County Supervisors, and the Commission on Aging.

Some of the questions the commissioners posed were: When does the public outreach phase end? What is the relationship between Metro's planning and the planning being done by the County? What are FCDOT and ATCS doing to reach out? Are they working with Senior Centers? How are they making sure of good coverage for non-riders? How are they reaching residents without telephones? How long is the paper survey? Are Human Services Centers and Outreach Organizations being included in the plan?

In response to these questions, Ms. Byala stated that while there is no deadline for the public outreach, she envisions that within the next two months: survey comments will be compiled; they will be going out to the senior centers to speak to them; ways to capture information from those without telephones will be considered, looking at ways to reach Human Services and other outreach centers; and looking at easier ways to get the SMARTRIP cards to older adults.

In conclusion to the presentation by Ms. Byala, chair person Tena Bluhm stressed the need for reliable public transportation as older adults need transportation options and the number of older adults is growing. She stated that the Commission on Aging is interested and looking forward to a system that would impact this population of people.

She thanked the presenters for their time and efforts.

COA Public Meeting Locations

Chairperson Tena Bluhm presented the commissioners with the schedule for public meeting locations for comments.

George Myers asked where the schedule will be published and advertised. Carolyn Carter responded that the schedule would be advertised on the Web site and in the *Golden Gazette*. A discussion followed and Ms Carter said she would welcome suggestions. Eileen Duggan suggested notices on bulletin boards in the district offices and senior centers and also informing Intake social workers. Danielle Wight will also publish the schedule in “The Democrat” a publication that circulates in Fairfax County.

In conclusion, Tena Bluhm asked if the rotation of the schedule was agreeable to all. All were in favor of the new schedule.

Articles Featuring COA in *Golden Gazette*

Chairperson Tena Bluhm expressed her desire to have a feature/article in the *Golden Gazette* and requested that commission members partake in this process by being available to be interviewed. All were in favor with going forward with featuring the COA in the *Golden Gazette* and being available to be interviewed.

COA Review and Discussion: *Draft Fairfax 50+ Scorecard*

The commissioners suggested a few corrections to the Scorecard: document footers with date of changes and a discussion of the connection between some actions and the initiatives.

Chairperson Tena Bluhm stated that she would be meeting with the Chair of the Board’s Fairfax 50+ Committee, Supervisor Pat Herrity and would like to discuss with him how he envisions the COA/BOS Fairfax 50+ committee meeting in late July. A discussion followed.

Ms. Bluhm stated that the next report will have a status – Complete, In Process or Not Started – for each item and said this will require the active involvement of COA members in developing these assessments.

Elly Doyle made a motion to request that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors include the increase in the amount of the Livable Homes Tax Credit in their 2009 Legislative Program. The motion was seconded by Sally Hottle and passed.

A motion to approve the cover letter to Supervisor Herrity with proposed amendments was made by Elly Doyle. It was seconded by Eileen Duggan and passed.

The timetable for the *Fairfax 50+ Scorecard* development and completion was approved with edits, including the dissemination of the report to the Board of Supervisors the last week in June.

Draft Area Plan of Aging Services, FY 09

Grace Starbird explained that the Area Plan is a draft contract with the State outlining how federal Older Americans Act funds will be spent. She requested approval of the draft plan from the Commission. A discussion followed.

A motion to approve the FY 2009 Area Plan for Aging Services was moved by Eileen Duggan and seconded by Danielle Wight. It was unanimously approved.

Member Updates

Sally Hottle shared that she attended the Ms. Senior Virginia Pageant.

Elly Doyle stated that she attended the Faith Community Summit which was well attended. She took flyers and distributed to church representatives.

Tena Bluhm, chair, stated that she had received an e-mail from Mary Potter about Seniors & Law Enforcement Together (SALT). The focus of this new council is to enhance law enforcement's response to crime-related issues experienced or feared by older residents. *(See reference in Scorecard's Safety and Security section on Page 32, K. 1.)*

Eileen Duggan shared that she went to the Northern Virginia Aging Network's (NVAN) legislative brain storming session on June 10 to determine legislative priorities for 2009. The positions are now being drafted.

Jack Fritz shared that he attended a meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO). One of the topics of discussion was the need to replace the paper version of the file of life records, being distributed in Fairfax County, with electronic versions. General Electric has a project in the state of Vermont where a patient is asked if they would like to set up an electronic file of life record. INOVA and Erickson Corporation also have a joint plan to set up electronic file of life records for seniors living in the two assisted living homes Erickson runs – Green Springs and Ashburn. Mr. Fritz also mentioned that Virginia Hospital Center is working with Bearing Point to set up a Google search engine program for patients of the Arlington Free Clinic, which handles about 40,000 appointments per year. All of these are necessary first steps in setting up a workable Personal Health Record (PHR). Mr. Fritz mentioned that when he asked who will be responsible for gathering, entering and more importantly keeping data up to date for these studies, he was told that that would be the next phase of the project.

Joseph Heastie and George Myers had no updates at this time.

Danielle Wight shared that she had attended the Crisis Intervention workshop. Topics covered were on the definition of a crisis, potential precipitants of a crisis for older adults and their families, as well as types of families and their dynamics and structure.

Old Business

None discussed.

New Business

Tena Bluhm, Chair, introduced and welcomed the new Staff Person Brenda McGrail.

She then presented the Commissioners with the upcoming deadline of electing a new chairperson (July). Eileen Duggan nominated Tena Bluhm to continue in the position of the chair for the 2008-2009 year. Her nomination was seconded by George Myers and Sally Hottle. All were in favor and unanimously accepted Tena Bluhm as the new chairperson for the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging.

Ms. Bluhm mentioned that a Thank You note was in order to Supervisor Sharon Bulova and her staff thanking them for the use of the Braddock District conference room. All were in favor.

She concluded by reiterating that she will meet with Supervisor Pat Herrity next week.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was moved to a close by Sally Hottle and seconded by Joseph Heastie. All were in favor to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda McGrail