

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING  
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, December 21, 2011**

**Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria, VA, 22315**

**Commissioners Present:** Tena Bluhm (Chair), Maureen Renault (Vice Chair), Tom Bash, Nazir Bhagat, Julie Bloom Ellis, Joe Heastie, Kenneth Malmberg, Suzanne Rudiselle

**Commissioners Absent:** Faviola Donato-Galindo, Mary Jo Rasmussen

**Staff Present:** Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff

**Others Present:** Barbara Antley, *Fairfax County Adult & Aging Division Director*

**Call to Order, Adoption of the day's Agenda and Minutes**

Tom motioned to accept the agenda; Ken seconded.

Maureen motioned to accept the minutes from the November meeting; Julie seconded.

**Public Comments**

No public comment.

**Old Business**

**2012 Goals and Objectives**

Commissioners discussed possible COA goals submitted in recent months by Tena, Maureen, and Tom. The COA agreed to provide support for another consumer education event about universal design. Commissioners can work individually to meet with businesses about older adult issues, if they first clear with staff to avoid duplication. The COA agreed that many of their goals will be addressed in the revamped 50+ Action Plan.

Sharon reported that Tom's website observations will be incorporated into a new older adult page being developed to provide a virtual information center. The COA will be asked for input. Commissioners continued discussion about appropriate and useful

Golden Gazette articles that appeal to many different readers. Sharon stated that the January Golden Gazette includes a section listing numbers for people who have questions. The COA will continue to receive updates and to provide input on the Golden Gazette.

#### Bylaws

Ken distributed the current draft of suggested bylaws changes, incorporating suggestions from the November COA meeting. Finalization will be discussed at the January meeting.

#### LTCCC Transportation Committee

Tom volunteered to serve on LTCCC Transportation Committee.

#### **New Business**

Ken had a short discussion with Supervisor Cook regarding transportation and possible public transportation strategies to help older adults and people with disabilities.

#### **Director's Report**

Sharon Lynn discussed the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging updates included in the Commissioners' packet.

#### **COA Member Activities**

Julie will meet with Supervisor Hyland to discuss technology at senior centers. Joe offered to attend the meeting if he is in town.

Tom attended the Arlington Area Agency on Aging meeting to learn more about older adult activities and services in the region.

Suzanne sent a proposal to Fellowship Hall committees regarding incorporation of universal design. She has a tentative meeting with Supervisor Hudgins in January.

Joe requested coverage of his citizen representative role on the pre-guardianship panel coverage while he is away January through March. Tena and Nazir offered to provide coverage for a month. Information will be sent to commissioners not present.

Nazir has met with state delegates and others regarding commercial incentives and ADA compliance. He continues to support grab bar installations in homes.

Maureen and Supervisor Frey went on another “older adult/COA field trip.” First, they visited a universally-designed home in Prince William. The owner from Golden Rule Builders constructed the home for his wife. They also visited Avalon Homes to observe small group home settings that offer alternatives to larger facilities. Supervisor Frey has expressed strong interest in older adult issues and may begin to schedule regular meetings with Maureen and AAA experts.

Tena requested discussion about the newly released Older Dominion Partnership survey at the January meeting.

Interested commissioners can meet with legislators in Richmond on January 25 to discuss older adult issues and concerns. Nazir volunteered to testify at the Governor’s budget hearing.

Tena expects to hear updates on the BOS 50+ Action Plan redesign early in the year.

The Congregate Meals Food Pantry Project (endorsed by the COA as part of the Diverse Meals Project) will host another meal in Sully in January. Maureen and Supervisor Frey have been invited to attend. A February meal is being planned in Mason District.

The commissioners signed a letter of gratitude to Eileen Duggan, stating that it would take pages and pages to enumerate all of her work while on the COA and her positive impact on the lives of older adults in Fairfax County.

On behalf of the COA, Tena, Nazir, and Joe accepted an invitation to provide an overview of the COA and Fairfax Area Agency on Aging services to a delegation from China. The delegation of approximately 20 non-English speakers had many questions.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Joe motioned to adjourn; Suzanne seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.