

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

Lee District, Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

Commissioners Present: Tena Bluhm (Chair), Maureen Renault (Vice Chair), Tom Bash, Nazir Bhagat, Kenneth Malmberg, Mary Jo Rasmussen

Commissioners Absent: Julie Bloom Ellis, Faviola Donato-Galindo, Joe Heastie, Suzanne Rudiselle

Staff Present: Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff

Others Present: Retha Lockhart, *Golden Gazette Editor*, Grace Lynch, *Adult and Aging Communications Manager*, Patti Klein, *Rebuilding Together Executive Director*, Chester Freedenthal, *Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol Program Volunteer*, Dan Henderson, *Resident of City of Falls Church*

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

The Commission on Aging (COA) meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tena Bluhm. Ken motioned that the agenda be accepted; Mary Jo seconded. Mary Jo motioned that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as submitted; Tom seconded.

Public Comments

Chester Freedenthal offered printed information on Virginia's Senior Medicare Patrol Program. Representatives from his program are available to present to groups about Medicare fraud.

Presentation: Rebuilding Together

Patti Klein, Executive Director, presented to the COA about Rebuilding Together, an organization that provides home repairs at no cost to homeowners. Rebuilding Together is the nation's leading nonprofit dedicated to preserving homeownership. Patti welcomes COA involvement and support of home repair projects.

Golden Gazette Update

Retha Lockhart and Grace Lynch presented to the COA about the Golden Gazette and newer electronic communication approaches for the 50+ distribution list. The latest survey demonstrated that readers strongly want the Golden Gazette to continue. YouTube,

Flickr, and Facebook approaches are also now being implemented to communicate information of interest to older adults. Readership and mission has grown to include adults over 18 with disabilities and caregivers.

The COA discussed Golden Gazette content and distribution approaches.

Old Business

2012 Goals and Objectives

The COA discussed 2012 goals and objectives. Tena requested that the goals be finalized by the December meeting. Mary Jo requested that COA documents include references to the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church.

Bylaws

Ken distributed the latest draft of the bylaws, with a focus on goals and objectives. Suggestions will be incorporated into a new draft for the December meeting.

Other Old Business

Mary Jo continues to be interested in the senior urgent care at Holy Cross Hospital. She will gather information for the COA.

New Business

No new business.

Director's Report

Sharon Lynn directed the COA to the statistics included in the Area Agency on Aging unit reports, including the number of Web visitors and caller numbers and priority issues received by the Aging Disability & Caregiver Resources intake line.

COA Member Activities

Tena reported that Eileen has resigned and expressed gratitude for Eileen's many outstanding contributions to the COA.

Tom likes the podcasts about Medicare on the website and asked if additional podcasts might be developed to cover other programs.

Ken's civic association continues to strengthen its commitment to reaching out to older adults. He asked if the COA has ever hosted a holiday project. Sharon responded the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging organizes an annual holiday project to provide gifts for clients.

Mary Jo continues to work with her community group and asks that the AAA notify her if clients could use additional gifts.

Meeting Adjournment

Tom motioned the meeting be adjourned; Ken seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.