

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

George Mason Regional Library
7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003

Commissioners Present: Kay Larmer (Vice Chair), Phil Ashmore, Tom Bash, Sharron Dreyer, Eleanor Fusaro, Joseph Heastie, Denton Kent, Bob Kuhns, Grace Paris Starbird, Carolyn Sutterfield

Commissioners Absent: Richard Chobot (Chair), Bill Shackelford

Staff Present: Sharon Lynn, Jacquie Woodruff, Tenia Simmons

Others Present: Josh Bagley, *Goodwin House*; Valerie Mawdsley, *Smart Money Management–VA*; Emily Thomas, *Volunteer Solutions*; Rocio Vargas, *Area Agency on Aging Intern*; Bob Eiffert, *Fairfax County Health Department*; Tena Bluhm, *Long Term Coordinating Council (LTCCC)*; Alison Ross Tompkins, *The Fairfax (Sunrise)*

Call to Order, Adoption of Meeting Agenda, Review and Adoption of Draft Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Kay Larmer called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Ellie motioned that the agenda and draft minutes be approved. Carolyn seconded.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Introduction of New Commissioners

Kay introduced the two new commissioners: Phil Ashmore, At-Large, and Grace Starbird, City of Falls Church. Phil and Grace provided brief introductions.

Old Business

Tom led the COA in a status review of the 50+ initiatives. Commissioners provided further input on the progress of a few of the initiatives. Kay suggested that advocates consult with initiative champions and update progress levels. Carolyn asked if the SurveyMonkey tool will still be used to solicit information from the champions. Sharon stated that the survey will be utilized prior to the next BOS 50+ Committee meeting. Bob suggested that the dashboard include a call for champions for the few initiatives not yet represented. Rich suggested that initiative status could be communicated at a few follow-up community forums.

Joe distributed his small project funding proposal for 50+ Community Action Plan projects. The COA discussed possible approaches to obtaining and distributing seed money, a cost/benefit analysis, and a possible implementation plan presentation to the BOS. Sharon suggested that the idea should be discussed with Supervisor Herry.

The COA discussed the handling of new initiatives presented to the COA after the adoption of the 50+ Community Action Plan. Joe stated that, because the 50+ Plan was already approved by the BOS, new initiatives cannot be inserted into the plan unless approved by the BOS. Denton stated that proposals related to the already-approved initiatives can be incorporated into the implementation work. Phil suggested that new ideas could be presented at COA meetings.

Kay reported that she and Rich enjoyed their Kaffee Klatch meetings with the newer commissioners. The meetings were held to discuss commissioner expectations and goals. Kay thanked Carolyn for developing a commissioner job description, intended to provide guidelines rather than restraints.

Joe reported on the "Managing Someone Else's Money" Presentation by the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) held at Greenspring on August 17. Joe represented the COA at the event because of his work with the Pre-Guardianship Panel. The event was broadcast on Greenspring's TV channel. CFPB Director Richard Cordray and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring spoke to an audience of mostly older adults. State-specific versions of CFPB brochures ("Help for Court-Appointed Conservators in Virginia") have been designed to help nonprofessionals understand their duties and responsibilities when they are court-designated to make financial decisions about another person's money and property. The guides are of special interest to the Commission on Aging (COA) and the BOS 50+ Community Action Plan because they relate to the initiatives that address protecting older adults from financial exploitation. Joe recommended that the COA and AAA consider informing constituents about online resources and publications available. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website is www.consumerfinance.gov.

Kay invited Bob Eiffert to provide an update on the LTCCC Aging and Wellness Summit. Bob stated that three 50+ initiatives will now be represented at the Summit. The event date hasn't yet been confirmed. Denton suggested that the COA might serve as a co-sponsor because of the 50+ initiatives involved.

New Business

A new COA website photo will be taken at the beginning of the October meeting.

The next BOS 50+ Committee meeting will meet again in early 2016.

Kay and Rich propose that the COA meet for a brainstorming retreat. The commissioners agreed that a retreat would be beneficial. Location possibilities include Kay's home or Greenspring. Meeting place and details will be on the October agenda.

Bob discussed the possibility of a COA blog. The Arlington COA has a Twitter account. Commissioners discussed the demand and potential workload of various forms of social media.

Kay reported that Rich would like to move to a thematic approach to meetings. Grace Lynch will be invited to lead a broad discussion about communications and social media at the October meeting.

Tena Bluhm announced her resignation as the COA representative to the LTCCC. Tena and her husband are preparing for a local move. Tena reported that the focus of the LTCCC and the Services for Seniors Committee meetings was mental health. LTCCC speakers included Tisha Deeghan from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Ricki Epstein from The ARC of Northern Virginia, and Paul Browne with an update on the sale of the Northern Virginia Training Center property. At the committee meeting, Carol Blackwell presented about Memory Cafés and Dr. Catherine Tompkins and Dr. Emily Ihara presented about their research: "Personalized Music and Memory: Exploring the Behavioral and Emotional Changes Among Individuals with Dementia." Denton stated that Dr. Tompkins and Dr. Ihara are the two GMU professors championing the 50+ Trends Initiative. Tena provided the LTCCC with Tom's snapshot report about the progress of the 50+ Plan and asked that it be included in the LTCCC meeting minutes.

COA meeting times will be discussed at the retreat.

Director's Report

Sharon reported that the AAA contract with DARS includes the implementation of Peer Place as the No Wrong Door data management system and a corresponding No Wrong Door advisory committee. Other AAAs in Virginia have been approaching already-established community groups to serve in this capacity. Sharon met with LTCCC leadership to discuss whether the LTCCC would be willing to serve in this role. She will next meet with the LTCCC steering committee.

Commissioner Updates

Kay reported that GrandInvolve is now working in three schools (Mt Vernon Woods, Crestwood and Parklawn). The leadership is strategizing how to expand the program to all Title I schools in Fairfax County. Sharron stated that her church's bus is being used to transport Greenspring volunteers to help the students at one of the GrandInvolve schools.

Ellie reported that NV Rides has seven partners. Volunteer Solutions will host a South County fair to recruit volunteers. The Neighbor to Neighbor initiative team is in the process of preparing materials to be distributed after the election.

Joe was impressed that the Florida Ombudsman Program knew the reputation of the Fairfax Ombudsman Program. Joe has been providing caregiver support for a relative and was amazed at the amount of progress resulting from placement in a better facility.

Denton announced that the 50+ Zoning/Housing forum will be held tomorrow. The event is co-sponsored by the COA, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Remarks will be offered by Stockton Williams, executive director, Terwilliger Center for Housing, Urban Land Institute. Fred Selden, DPZ director, will roll out the new brochure on incentives for older adult housing. The target audience for the event is builders, developers, and bankers. Of the 280 invited, only 30 are registered to attend.

Denton thanked staff for their work on the event. A positive outcome has been the strengthened relationship between AAA, DPZ, and HCD. Denton announced that he has resigned from the COA effective after the DPZ event.

Carolyn reported that she is also working on zoning matters with the City of Fairfax. Carolyn spoke with 50+ Property Management Champion Sue Ritchey. After a busy summer in the real estate business, Sue has been researching launching a pilot project in Reston. Fairfax 50+ Home Modification Champion Carl Varner has been covering for his director, but has continued his work on the home fit guide. Fairfax 50+ Champion Linda Schlekau suggested that library staff work with DIT this fall to link the library to older adult Web pages. Carolyn chairs the Mosby Woods Village.

Sharron reported that the 50+ Homelessness Initiative team will visit the JCA project in Montgomery County on September 30. Sharron recommended that commissioners listen to Mena Nakhla's podcast on multicultural outreach available on the older adults Web page. The Greenspring Executive Director invited Sharron to update him on the COA. He has offered Greenspring's support and meeting space to the COA.

Bob offered to develop a list of talking points for the COA for use when meeting with their supervisors and state-elected officials.

Tom reported that Rich and others testified in support of Pre-Notification 911 at the BOS Carryover Budget Hearing. Tom observed that school issues were well-represented, but that aging concerns didn't appear to be as much of a concern. Denton stated that, although the numbers of students and older adults are nearly equivalent in the county, students receive 46 percent of the budget and older adults receive only 1 percent.

Adjournment

Tom motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.