

**FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)
FINAL MINUTES**

VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87314070663>

Password: COA-m1234!

Or

Telephone: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free) or 602-333-0032

Conference code: 231525

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Carolyn Sutterfield, (Chair), Mike Perel (Vice Chair), Cathy Muha (Secretary), Tom Bash, Cathy Cole, Martha Cooper, Sharron Dreyer, Joe Heastie, Kathy Hoyt, Phyllis Miller Palombi, Diane Watson, Kay Larmer

Staff Present:

Michael Becketts, Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Hilda Naranjo

Call to Order

COA Chair Carolyn Sutterfield called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll Call and Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting

Carolyn explained that, in order to conduct the meeting electronically in compliance with the emergency procedures authorized by FOIA, the State of Emergency, and the Emergency Ordinance, certain findings and determinations are required for the record. Carolyn called the roll, and all the commissioners participating stated their name and the location from which there were participating. Commissioners present were:

- Carolyn Sutterfield from her home in the City of Fairfax
- Tom Bash from his home in the Springfield District
- Sharron Dreyer from her home in Springfield, representing Lee District
- Martha Cooper from her home in City of Falls Church
- Diane Watson from her home in Lorton, representing Mount Vernon District
- Phyllis Miller Palombi from her home in Reston, representing Hunter Mill District
- Joe Heastie from his son's home in Pennsylvania, representing Providence District
- Cathy Muha from her home in Oakton, representing the Sully District
- Kathy Hoyt from her home in Lincolnia, representing Mason District
- Cathy Cole from her home in Springfield, serving as the At-Large Representative
- Mike Perel from Bethany Beach representing Braddock District

- Kay Larmer from her home in McLean, representing Dranesville District (introduced herself and stated location after initial roll call).

Carolyn motioned that the COA had a quorum present via remote connection and that each member's voice could be adequately heard by all participating members of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging. Vice Chair Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Phyllis seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Carolyn motioned that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe for the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging and the public to physically assemble. She further moved that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line that the public could access. Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Diane Watson seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Finally, Carolyn motioned that all agenda matters would address the Emergency itself, were necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or were statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Mike Perel called for a second and a vote. Martha Cooper seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Additions to Agenda; Approval of the Agenda; Approval of the Minutes

Carolyn asked that the Virtual Governor's Conference on Aging be added under New Business. Sharron Dreyer motioned that the amended agenda be approved. Mike Perel seconded. The COA voted unanimously to accept the amended agenda.

Martha Cooper motioned that the minutes be approved. Kay Larmer seconded. The COA voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

None

Presentation: Active Fairfax Transportation Plan - Nicole Wynands, Department of Transportation Planner – Nicole Wynands

The Active Transportation Plan is an ongoing county effort to prioritize self-propelled human powered transportation including, but not limited to, running, biking, wheelchairs, strollers and walking. The Department of Transportation is developing a plan that considers the mobility issues and concerns of citizens while looking to the future needs of Active Transportation in the County. The Plan has not been updated in many years and does not meet current standards. The Department is evaluating and updating three categories, The Trails Master Plan, The Bicycle Master Plan and The Special Areas (Activity Centers) Master Plan. The goal in all categories is to provide and support safe, convenient access to transportation that connects citizens, of all abilities, to places of recreation, work, education and home. The Plan will merge with previous documents to provide one succinct accessible document to be incorporated into the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

Old Business

Michael Becketts, Department of Family Services (DFS) Director, led a discussion with the COA about the Racial Equity Institute Groundwater Presentation that several commissioners recently attended. Director Becketts is meeting with DFS Boards, Authorities and Commissions to discover and discuss the experiences of the Racial Equity Institute Groundwater Presentation. The Department wants to provide Boards, Authorities and Commissions the opportunity to obtain fundamental knowledge surrounding systemic, structural racism and other inequities. The presentation has created an awareness and provides a “lens” through which Boards, Authorities and Commissions should view their purposes. There are so many areas of marginalization, and the Department of Family Services wants to make certain that people are served where age, race, gender and ability intersect. Director Beckett is interested in supporting his staff and supporting the Boards, Authorities and Commissions. Director Beckett interjected that the Groundwater presentation is simply the beginning of a very difficult and sensitive topic. The presentation was followed by an open suggestion, question and answer period. Tara Turner, Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, commented that the Commission on Aging is in a unique position to make certain all voices have a seat at the table while developing the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan. The Commission can make certain that proposed programs do not further or create marginalization of specific demographics and that all issues are evaluated through the lens of justice.

Commissioners shared the following updates:

- Diane Watson reported that the number of Dementia Friendly Friends has increased to 179. The next Dementia Friendly Fairfax trainings will be held on May 19 at 6:00 p.m. and on May 20 at 10:30 a.m.
Diane attended a Mental Health Awareness Day event on May 6 sponsored by the National Council on Aging. Diane highly recommends the featured speaker, Ashton Applewhite, who has been featured on a TED Talk.
Diane attended the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) meeting May 18. The meeting was devoted to determining and voting on priorities for the legislative platform.
- Carolyn Sutterfield attended the Health and Human Services Council Meeting on May 18. Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services was asked a question about mental health among older citizens. Occasional phone calls and meal delivery during the pandemic was not a good measure of mental health. The county is hoping to open Adult Day Centers before September. The presentation by Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer and Sharon Arndt, Health Department provided information on Vaccine Equity Clinics. Mobile vaccination units went into underserved areas where preregistration was not required.
- Carolyn expressed gratitude and praise for Jacquie’s Livable Communities Development Team and their works over the past ten years. The team has been reorganized and now serves in other areas. Fortunately, Jacquie and Hilda will continue to work with the Commission on Aging.
- Mike Perel and Phyllis Miller discussed the possibility of developing an Aging Film Festival. They would like to consider the films nominated for Best Picture in 2021. The idea would be for participants to watch the film and then attend a discussion moderated by Dr. Richard Hilburn, Geriatrician and Phyllis Miller, Mental Health Therapist.

Cathy Cole motioned that a subcommittee be formed to investigate the possibility of a film festival dealing with issues in aging. Diane Watson seconded the motion. The COA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Director’s Report

Tara Turner updated the Commission on anticipated funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The funding notification was received for an award of \$49,765. This award will support technology needs, training, marketing and program awareness.

Tara indicated that the Agency is awaiting funding award letters for the American Rescue Plan funding and the Vaccine Response funding.

Tara informed the Commission that an Older Adults Committee Meeting has been scheduled, in person, on June 15 at 1:30. Supervisor Herrity has asked the Commission on Aging to be present for the discussion. Topics for the meeting include a brief summary of the COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults and updates on those initiatives. There will be a discussion about potentially administering a new survey because the pandemic may have changed residents' perspective on need. There will be a discussion regarding a new timeline for SHAPE the Future of Aging Initiative.

New Business

Governor’s Virtual Conference on Aging

Carolyn indicated that she, Cathy Muha, Diane Watson and Martha Cooper will attend the conference. Carolyn asked the Commission to indicate interest in session topics, so the four Commissioners can coordinate attendance at those sessions and report to the Commission at the June COA meeting.

Announcements

Carolyn announced that the new website vaccines.gov will list vaccine providers based on zip code.

Adjournment

Sharron Dreyer motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Kay Larmer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cathy Muha, COA Secretary.

Approved: June 16, 2021

DocuSigned by:
Cathy Muha

Cathy Muha, COA Secretary

06/17/2021 | 5:08 AM PDT

Date

DocuSigned by:
Carolyn Sutterfield

Carolyn Sutterfield, COA Chair

06/17/2021 | 5:34 PM EDT

Date