

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL – VIDEO/AUDIO MEETING

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86126795026>

Password: COA-m1234!

Telephone: 888-270-9936 (US Toll Free) or 602-333-0032 Conference code: 231525

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Cathy Cole (Chair/At Large), Cathy Muha (Vice Chair/Sully), Martha Cooper (Secretary/City of Falls Church), Carolyn Sutterfield (City of Fairfax), Joanne Collins (Hunter Mill), (Sharron Dreyer (Lee), Joe Heastie (Providence), Mike Perel (Braddock), Diane Watson (Mount Vernon)

Commissioners Absent: Kay Larmer (Dranesville),

County Staff Present: Tara Turner, Jacquie Woodruff, Ana Valdivia, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Cole called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Roll Call and Motions to Proceed with Electronic Meeting

Chair Cathy C. called the roll. Vice Chair Cathy M. read the motions and Cathy C. conducted the votes.

- Cathy M. motioned that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging had a quorum present via remote connection and that each member’s voice could be adequately heard by all participating members. Diane seconded. Motion carried.
- Cathy M. 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 and that the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging was conducting the meeting electronically through the dedicated telephone line listed above. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
- Cathy M. 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. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the minutes and agenda: Cathy C. motioned to approve the minutes from September 21, 2022. Three corrections were noted. The minutes were accepted as amended. Motion passed. Cathy C. motioned and Cathy M. seconded that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Providence District Welcome: Supervisor Dalia Palchik

Although the COA continues to meet virtually, Supervisor Palchik of the Providence District served as the official “host” for October. She introduced her father who had just visited the Providence Senior Center. She works on transportation and housing with an equity lens. She commended the work of the Commission on Aging. Providence District offered a roundtable on caregiving which airs on Channel 16. The next roundtable will focus on transportation on November 15th. Meals on Wheels provides food and makes a difference socially. The high cost of housing hampers people’s ability to retire here. Supervisor Palchik invited the COA to visit Providence Community Center to observe the range of services to infants, youth and older adults.

Joe Heastie thanked Supervisor Palchik for her dedication.

AAA Director’s Report: Tara Turner, Director, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

- Laura Nichols retired as long-term care ombudsman supervisor. Beth Ann Margetta has been selected to serve as the new supervisor of the ombudsman program
- The Area Agency on Aging’s record system is transitioning to the state system of records in a phased approach. The new checking program and the companion program are now using the Virginia system. Home delivery of meals will be added next.
- The IFF (Interstate Funding Formula) is being reviewed by the state. The IFF is set once every decade. The public comment period will be established soon. The allocation for the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (FAAA) looks promising.
- The upcoming town halls meetings for SHAPE the Future of Aging are:
 - Reston Community Center, Monday 10/31
 - Hybla Community Center, Tuesday 11/1
 - Government Center, Friday 11/4
 - Annandale Heritage Center, Thursday 11/10
- The town halls are not age restricted. Attendees must register to attend. These events are being marketed.

Old Business

• Commissioner Updates for September and October

Human Services Council Carolyn Sutterfield reported that the Human Services Council (HSC) met October 17, 2022.

Tom Fleetwood, Director of Housing and Community Development, reported on the status of current affordable housing projects under development by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA).

FCRHA is a separate legal entity from Fairfax County. It acts as a conduit for housing funds and is overseen by 11 commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors. FCRHA owns/operates over 3,000 multifamily units, 482 senior housing units, and 112 licensed assisted living beds. It administers federal, state, and local rental vouchers. Current FCRHA properties house more than 20,000 people; 35% of these households include a person with a disability.

Countywide, almost 71,000 county households earn \$50K or less. About 30,000 low- to moderate-income renters pay more than 33% of their monthly income for housing. Planners estimate that the county needs 15,000 new homes in the next 15 years for families at 60% AMI and below. The goal of the Board's Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan is at least 10,000 new units by 2034, plus preservation of existing affordable housing. To that end one additional cent on the real estate tax has been added for the Affordable Housing Fund beyond the baseline half penny. 1309 units are currently under construction.

For qualifying older adults, current construction and planned development includes 150 housing units at Autumn Willow in the Springfield District and 60 independent living units at Little River Glen in the Braddock District, where the existing 120 units will also be renovated. For the homeless, 20 permanent supportive housing units are planned at the Penn Daw Fire Station property in Lee District.

The Board also adopted recommendations from the Manufactured Housing Task Force (mobile homes) to preserve affordability of the approximately 1750 units in the eight communities in the county, providing residents the opportunity to fully participate in and benefit from civic life, particularly in decisions impacting housing sustainability. Outreach in both English and Spanish is informing residents and park owners about their rights and responsibilities. HCD hopes for a change in the state law that allows only 60 days after a sale is announced for residents to make a counter offer; the owner must consider the offer but need not accept it. They also want to offer financial support for those displaced.

Jerry Poje requested a map of "affordable homes deserts" in the county. He noted that the county has benefited from Amazon's housing fund money. Can other corporations be asked to contribute to workforce housing? He also suggested using the term "affordable homes" rather than "affordable housing."

Steve Bloom asked about the current evictions crisis. Sarah Allen reported that Neighborhood and Community Services has already disbursed \$90 million in the community to prevent evictions and created an evictions board to aid those already in the court system. \$10 million has been allotted for three months' rental assistance to those evicted. Nonprofits are also addressing this need.

Finally, Michele Menapace mentioned that volunteers from nonprofit partner Rebuilding Together spoke at a recent public hearing of the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) on housing and community needs. The volunteers help older residents remain in their current homes by making minor repairs and installing grab bars and other safety aids. With limited new senior housing coming available, this is a major area of need for older area residents.

Pre-guardianship meeting Sharron Dreyer reported that there is a great need for guardians with many heart-wrenching stories. The efforts by AAA to support those who need guardians is impressive.

Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) Diane Watson reported that there was emphasis at the NVAN legislative breakfast on getting state lawmakers to sponsor legislation in the upcoming General Assembly.

Dementia Caregivers Conference November 9 – 11 Diane also mentioned the upcoming conference.

Commissioners Liaisons with other Boards, Advisory Groups and Commissions Cathy Cole will resend the liaison list. Commissioners need to confirm their involvement with the various Boards and Commissions.

New Business

Health Management Associates (HMA) led discussion with Commissioners as a focus group from 1:35 to 2:50 p.m. HMA used their own recorder to capture the discussion.

Commissioners discussed whether to meet in-person or virtually while the local state of emergency is still in effect. Joe suggested the need for a transition plan to switch in an orderly way. Sharron moved that COA hold virtual meetings through February 2023, if the local state of emergency remains in effect. Diane seconded. The motion carried.

Announcements:

- Green Acres in Fairfax City will dedicate their new pickle ball courts this weekend.
- James Lee Community Center hosts an International Festival on October 22nd from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Supervisor Storck's office in Mount Vernon District is promoting a senior summit on November 2 from 8:30 to noon. They welcome help in disseminating information about the event.
- The NOVA Dementia Caregivers Conference will be held November 9 to 11. The author of the 36-Hour Day is the keynote speaker. The material from the conference will be available for 30 days after the conference.

Adjournment

Carolyn motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Joe seconded. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Martha Cooper, COA Secretary.
Approved: November 16, 2022

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Martha Cooper
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11/17/2022 | 14:34:37 EST

Martha Cooper, COA Secretary

Date

DocuSigned by:
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Cathy Cole, COA Chair

Date