

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging  
Draft Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup> for  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners present:** Guleford Bobo; Barbara S. Hair; John Giacomini; Buddy Moore; Carolyn D. Nicholas; Charles Hicks; Carolyn Matthews; Mary Taylor; and Constance B. Woody.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Veronica Longstreth, DOH; and David Quick, DCPL.

**Members of the Public:** Ms. Betty Florence, Chair Ward 4 Mini-Commission and Sam McCoy, former Commissioner and member of the Ward 4 Mini-Commission.

**D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) Staff Present:** Tanya Reid, Administrative Services Supervisor and Michael Kirkwood, General Counsel.

**Call to Order**

Charles Hicks, Election Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:09 a.m.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the Commission's October 25, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved without corrections.

**Elections**

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Taylor nominated Carolyn Nicholas to serve as Chair. Commissioner Nicholas accepted. No other members expressed a desire to serve and/or run against Commissioner Nicholas. As such, the Commission voted its approval for Commissioner Nicholas to serve as its Chair.

Commissioners Moore and Giacomini were both nominated to serve as Vice-Chair. Commissioners were given ballots and asked to vote for one of the two. Commissioner Moore received seven (7) votes and Commissioner Giacomini received one (1). As such, Commissioner Moore was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Hicks turned the meeting over to the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

**General Discussion**

**A. Mini-Commissions**

Chairwoman Nicholas ("Chairwoman") and Vice-Chairman Moore thanked their fellow commissioners. The Chairwoman expressed her desire to add the Mini-Commissions to the agendas, create Mini-Commissions in those wards without one, and encourage seniors to reach

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<sup>1</sup> The final (approved) meeting minutes will be posted on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, which is the Commission's next meeting date.

out to them as a resource. Commissioner Hicks encouraged more involvement in the Commission's activities and/or events by mini-commissioners, including serving on Commission committees.

## **B. Presentation Ideas**

Chairwoman Nicholas requested a presentation on what DCOA does because it would be helpful for the Commission. In response, Tanya Reid recommended the Commissioners participate in the agency's Ambassadors Program for training on DCOA and its services.

Commissioner Bobo recommended a presentation be made to the Commission by the senior villages. He remarked that Heather Foote gave a presentation, he attended, on transportation that was well presented.

Commissioner Hicks reminded the members that the Commission has a charter, which each of them should have a copy of. Nevertheless, Tanya agreed to e-mail a copy of it to each member.

Carolyn, along with a few of the other Commissioners, requested the Commission's next meeting be DCOA's Ambassador Program training.

Commissioner Hicks motioned that Wednesday, December 20, 2017, be the date for the Commission's next meeting. Commissioner Woody seconded the motion; the motion passed via a majority vote.

## **C. Ward Reports**

**Ward 4:** Betty Florence, Chair of the Ward 4 Mini-Commission expressed that her, along with her members, are interested in DCOA and need help to survive. She and her membership will be having a discussion on the following subjects in the immediate future: organization of the mini-commission; Safe at Home; Age-Friendly; East of the river; transportation; and crime.

Commissioner Hicks recommended that the Commission meet with the Director and her staff to discuss challenges faced by the Mini-Commissions.

**Ward 8:** Commissioner Bobo shared that the police ball was recently held and went well.

Also, at the recent Ward 8 Mini-Commission meeting they discussed transportation issues. For example, some time ago, seniors were able to buy Smart Trip cards at various locations around the city but are now limited to just one location. The Ward 8 Mini-Commission would like to address this issue.

There were no additional ward reports.

## **D.C. Office on Aging Update, Laura Newland, Executive Director**

**DCOA Announcements:** The DCOA annual holiday celebration will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at the Stadium/Armory. Tanya Reid offered that tickets would become available the first week of December; she agreed to update the commission on tickets and parking.

The Age-Friendly Task Force's meeting is tomorrow at the John A. Wilson building. The Mayor is hold a press conference in order to highlight DC being designated as one of few age-friendly cities around the world.

**Questions/Concerns:** Commissioner Pridgen inquired what would Director Newland discuss at the age-friendly meeting. She indicated she was not certain but would probably discuss home and community-based services.

Commissioner Hicks requested that Director Newland discuss the new lead agency and the budget. According to the Director, East River is the new Ward 8 lead agency; they continue to serve as the Ward 7 lead agency. For fiscal year 2018, the agency was given \$300k for fit and well programming at DPR sites.

And it was given \$500K for Alzheimer's programming. The new program is set to begin in FY18. However, currently at Iona, DCOA funds the Club Memory program: clients and their caregivers engage in activities and the caregiver gets a break. Accessibility and/or capital improvements will be made at DCOA's sites.

DCOA got an enhancement for dedicated transportation at the Senior Wellness Centers. The transportation grant will be re-competed in fiscal year 19 and Seabury is aware of this.

Commissioner Moore requested an explanation of "211." Unfortunately, Director Newland was not familiar enough with it to offer an explanation. According to Mr. Moore, it's supposed to coordinate all transportation around the city. He attempted to call the number last week but did not get an answer. The Department of Transportation has a video on 211, nonetheless. Additionally, Commissioner Moore handed out applications for the enhanced Seabury connector card.

Commissioner Hicks inquired about the status of the \$5 taxi rides for seniors. Director Newland was unaware whether the Department of For Hire Vehicles had reinstated the original rule regarding the program.

Commissioner Hicks also asked the Director to speak about DPR and to schedule a DPR representative to come and speak about its programs for seniors. According to Director Newland, DCOA's focus is on high-need people in the community and DPR's focus is on fit and healthy seniors. As DCOA's understanding of aging has changed its circle has broadened. DPR has some senior programming and DCOA's relationship with DPR has grown.

Commissioner Pridgen asked if there has been any discussion about separating adults with disabilities out from DCOA. Director Newland indicated DCOA's specialty is people with physical disabilities. The trend nationally, is to combine rather than separate.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation**

Elder Abuse Committee: According to Chairwoman Nicholas, she recently met with Council members White's, Todd's and Bonds' legislative directors. She asked for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to prosecute elder abuse crimes similar to Montgomery County. The Chairwoman read an email from Council member White's office which included various ideas

and proposals for prosecution. The goal is for OAG to have criminal prosecution authority. There were no additional committee reports.

Chairwoman asked whether any of the Commissioners were interested in chairing the housing committee. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Pridgen agreed to chair the committee and the following commissioners agreed to serve on the committee: Bobo, Taylor and Giacomini.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Hicks distributed flyers for Bread for the Soul's toy and book drive to be held on Friday, December 1, 2017. The proceeds of the event are dedicated to families and children with HIV/AIDS.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10P.M.

These minutes were recorded by Michael D. Kirkwood, General Counsel, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Michael D. Kirkwood  
Michael D. Kirkwood  
General Counsel  
District of Columbia Office on Aging