

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of February 27, 2013 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas; Ron Swanda; Jacqueline Arguelles; Alethea Campbell; Don Colodny; Charles Hicks; Ruth Nadel; Samuel McCoy; Brenda Williams; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody; Dwan Tai

DCOA Staff Present:

Dr. John Thompson; Camille Williams; Abebi A. Wolfe; Deborah Royster; Alice Thompson

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Romaine Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:07 a.m. February 27, 2013 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Commissioner Swanda provided an inspirational message.

Chairperson Thomas presented the meeting agenda, which was unanimously approved by the members of the Commission.

The minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting were approved with corrections noted.

Mr. William Yates, Association Coordinator of Active Older Adults and Senior Wellness, YMCA, presented and reviewed programs and services for older adults that are provided by the YMCA. He encouraged the Commission to make the public aware of these free services and encourage older adults to use them to improve their overall health and fitness.

Dr. Sheila Jones, Chief, Adult Protective Services, made a presentation on programs and services provided by Adult Protective Services to protect older citizens and other vulnerable adults from abusive practices. She reviewed the District of Columbia’s mandatory reporting law, which requires health care providers and other providers of services to older citizens to report incidents of suspected abuse to law enforcement authorities.

- Dr. Thompson provided an update on key activities of DCOA. Dr. Thompson thanked the Commissioners for their commitment to public service in the District of Columbia and for being ambassadors on behalf of seniors in the District of Columbia. He stated that DCOA’s budget hearings are scheduled on April 29, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. He also stated

that a request for applications (RFA) would be issued in the near future for medical transportation services provided to seniors.

The Commissioners discussed the Commission's committee structure and committee assignments.

Ward Reports

- **Ward 3: Commissioner Nadel** suggested the Commission form a communications committee to help disseminate aging related service information to District residents. She stated the IONA Citizen's Advisory Committee meets once a month but serves more like a mini commission; they will soon elect a chairperson to lead the Committee. She also told the commission that as a Commissioner, she was invited to President Obama's Health Care symposium and got the opportunity to meet the President.
- **Ward 8 Commissioner Campbell** 8 mini commission has operated for 13 years; however, they did not hold their regularly scheduled monthly meeting in December opting to host a holiday party instead. She also stated, the January 29, 2013 Ambassador training program at Congress Heights SWC is filled. Additionally, she reported that Congress heights SWC still needs a social worker and was advised by staff that she would no longer provide her services to the wellness center. Dr. Thompson advised that she follow up with Brenda Turner for the details regarding the departure of Congress Heights social worker. 52 participant to attend ambassador and they love it.
- **Ward 4 Commissioner Wilson** reported AARP will host free tax preparation sessions in all Wards throughout the city beginning February 1, 2013 at the following locations:
 - Guy Mason Recreation Center
 - Emory Recreation Center
 - Mount Pleasant Library
 - Takoma Park Library
 - Petworth Library
 - Northwest One Library
 - Southwest Library
 - Anacostia Library
 - Capitol View Library
 - Lamont Riggs Library
 - Armed Forces Retirement Home
 - Mount Horeb Church
- **Ward 1 Commissioner Williams** asked Dr. Thompson if the Chairperson of the newly formed committees could attend meetings with him, when appropriate and as relevant to each committee.

- **Ward 7 Commissioner Woody** reported that she has worked with seniors to help facilitate transportation services to medical appointments.
- **Ward 1 Commissioner Arguelles** had no report.
- **Ward 6 Commissioner Colodny** stated he and Commissioner Swanda were working to start a Ward 6 mini commission and he was interested in serving on the transportation committee.
- **Ward 6 Commissioner Hicks** announced his planned participation in the Senior Men's Health Conference.
- **Ward 4 Commissioner McCoy** announced the passing of Ward 4 Mini Commissioner, Ms. Annette Jones. He stated the mini commission would hold elections in February to elect a new chairperson and fill other open vacancies. He also stated that he attended the Neighbor's Inc. meeting in November 2012 which established the agenda for the Senior Village Steering Committee that is conducting a Ward 4 senior needs assessment. The next meeting of Neighbor's Inc. is this week.
- **Ward 2 Commissioner Tai** reported that, in addition to services that are currently available to seniors in Ward 2, seniors would like more innovative program options to be made available to them. Commissioner Tai also suggested to Commissioner McCoy that, during the next meeting of the Senior Village Steering Committee, seniors be given the option to choose housing in a neighborhood of their choice.
- **Ward 6 Commissioner Swanda** stated that it has been a struggle establishing the Ward 6 mini commission but the first meeting is scheduled for mid February. Ward 6 lead have handicapped ramp now entrances a requirement for all lead agencies.
- **Ward 5 Commissioner Thomas** met with the Ward 5 mini commissioners who explained they would not be able to attend the January meeting of the Commission on Aging. She announced Mary Cooper, Ward 5's oldest resident passed away; she was 101 years old.

II. New Business

Commissioner Williams suggested the Commission return to its old policy of inviting District Government agency executives to present at Commission meetings.

The February 27, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:20PM.

Minutes recorded by Antonette Dozier, D.C. Office on Aging, and approved unanimously by the Commission on Aging on March 27, 2013.