

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of June 26, 2013 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas; Ron Swanda; Jacqueline Arguelles; Don Colodny; Charles Hicks; Samuel McCoy; Ruth Nadel; Josue Salmeron; Shirley Thorne; Brenda Williams; Constance Woody

DCOA Staff Present:

John Thompson; Camille Williams; Deborah Royster; Antonette Dozier

Guests Present:

Mr. Louis Davis, AARP; Ms. Jacqueline Flowers, Ward 4 Mini-Commissioner

Call to Order

Chairperson Romaine Thomas determined the presence of a quorum and called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:12 a.m. June 26, 2013 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Commissioner Woody offered a brief opening prayer.

Chairperson Thomas welcomed Commissioner Salmeron to the Commission, and Commissioner Salmeron commented on his professional background and commitment to community service. Chairperson Thomas also welcomed Ward 4 Mini-Commissioner Jacqueline Flowers to the meeting.

Louis Davis, President of AARP DC, discussed the World Health Organization’s Age Friendly City Initiative and commended Mayor Gray and the Government of the District of Columbia for adopting this important initiative that enables cities across the globe to review their infrastructure, practices, and policies from the perspective of seniors. He stated that this review process will benefit seniors and all citizens of the District of Columbia.

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Office on Aging Update

Dr. Thompson discussed new programs and services offered by DCOA, including DCOA's hospital discharge planning program, and decentralized case management by the Aging and Disability Resources Center. Dr. Thompson noted that the nomenclature of Lead Agencies for each ward would be changed to ADRC. He also noted that additional funding for DCOA in the amount of \$3.4 million was approved by the Council of the District of Columbia for meal programs, transportation services, and additional social workers. Dr. Thompson noted that legislation has been introduced before the Council of the District of Columbia to rename DCOA and to add additional programmatic authority for Money Follows the Person, Adult Protective Services, the Elderly and Physically Disabled (EPD) Waiver Program, and senior services. The Commissioners expressed support for this change.

Committee Reports

Chairman Thomas reported that the Commission will be comprised of working committees and asked each Commissioner to serve on at least one committee.

Transportation

The Commission voted to approve the attached Charter of the Transportation Committee, with one abstention. Commissioner Salmeron volunteered to serve on the Transportation Committee.

Housing

Commissioner Williams reported that she has recruited two members to serve on the Housing Committee.

Health and Wellness

Commissioner Swanda reported that he continues to recruit members to serve on the Health and Wellness Committee and that is also coordinating with senior villages to recruit additional members.

Education

Commissioner Nadel volunteered to serve on the Education Committee.

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Governance

Commissioner McCoy reported that the Governance Committee reviewed the guidelines for mini-commissions and recommends that no changes at this time. He reported that the Governance Committee also recommends that each commissioner consult with community stakeholders and determine whether a mini-commission should be convened to serve that ward. Commissioner McCoy also recommended that each commissioner review the operational guidelines for mini-commissions.

The commissioners voted unanimously to accept and approve all committee reports as presented. The commissioners unanimously agreed that the Commission on Aging will not meet during the months of July and August 2013.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Commissioner Williams reported that she is collaborating with the Washington Hospital Center to address seniors with depression. She recommended that the Health and Wellness Committee look further into this issue.

Commissioner Salmeron discussed his interest in serving on the Commission on Aging, and stated that he looks forward to participating and contributing to advance the Commission's mission.

Ward 3

Commissioner Nadel reported that IONA has art classes for seniors with cognitive impairments, and that seniors have created beautiful works of art. She noted that IONA has also published a resource guide for seniors. She noted that this resource guide has been provided to all members of the Commission on Aging.

Ward 4

Commissioner McCoy reported that Mayor Gray visited the Hattie Holmes Wellness Center and had an engaging, productive dialogue with seniors at this facility. Commissioner McCoy also reported that the Ward 4 Village Steering Committee continues its efforts to form a senior village to serve the residents of Ward 4 who live in communities east of Rock Creek Park.

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Commissioner McCoy also acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Jacqueline Flowers, Chairman of the Ward 4 Mini-Commission, and thanked her for coming to this meeting and for her efforts in the Ward 4 Mini-Commission. Mrs. Flowers reported that she is working closely with Commissioners McCoy, Wilson, and Willoughby to solicit participation on the Ward 4 Mini-Commission.

Ward 5

Chairman Thomas reported that she attended a Town Hall meeting at the Ward 5 Model Cities Wellness Center. She also reported that she attended the Ms. Senior D.C. Pageant, and that Ms. Nancy Berry was crowned Ms. Senior D.C. Chairman Thomas reported that she also attended the Annual Legislative Conference sponsored by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Ward 6

Commissioner Swanda reported that he continues to meet with Ward 8 ANC representatives to identify candidates to serve on the Ward 8 Mini-Commission. Commissioner Swanda also reported that he recently met with seniors at Hill House and discussed Social Security issues; and that he is working with the D.C. Health Information Exchange to educate the public on how to obtain health care benefits under the Affordable Care Act.

Commissioner Hicks reported that he is continuing to identify ways to extend his outreach activities to seniors in Ward 6, and that he will enlist assistance from DCOA in these efforts. Commissioner Hicks also reported that he has been appointed to serve on a commission of the District of Columbia that will organize local participation in the historic 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, D.C. He stated that numerous activities will be scheduled in commemoration of this event from August 24-28, 2013, including a rally for D.C. Statehood on August 24, 2013.

Ward 8

Commissioner Thorne reported that she met with the Lead Agency of Ward 8 to discuss the need for a social worker to serve seniors in Ward 8.

The June 26, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Minutes recorded by Antonette Dozier and Deborah Royster, D.C. Office on Aging. These minutes were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on September 25, 2013.