

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

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas; Ron Swanda; Jacqueline Arguelles; Alethea Campbell; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby, Charles Hicks; Ruth Nadel; Samuel McCoy; Brenda Williams; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody; Dwan Tai

DCOA Staff Present:

Dr. John Thompson; Camille Williams; Deborah Royster; Veronica Butler, Antonette Dozier

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 Brenda Williams provided an inspirational message.

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

Chairperson Thomas welcomes Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby back to D.C. Commissioner on Aging.

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

Rev Williams & Elizabeth Fox discussed about working with the District Senior Advisory assistance to seniors.

Ms Toya Lynch- Coordinator DYSP discussed senior lawn services for seniors and reported 40 seniors are on the list to receive lawn services. Registration forms will be with Vadonia Mallory next week.

Mr. Whitter –Executive Director – discussed how the program will be implemented introduced the youth participants and emphasized the importance of providing these services to seniors in a safe manner.

- 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 had the opportunity to meet the President.
- **Ward 8 Commissioner Campbell** –which the Congress Heights Wellness Center had a contest with the senior marching around. There were about 19 people to participate some with wheelchairs.
- **Ward 4 Commissioner Wilson** reported AARP will host free tax preparation sessions in all wards throughout the city beginning February 1, 2013.
- **Ward 1 Commissioner Williams** – discussed goals and activities of Committee on Housing and also reported on Black History month activities.
- **Ward 7 Commissioner Woody** reported that she has worked with seniors to help facilitate transportation services to medical appointments. She also reported that there are two persons interested in joining the mini commissioner.
- **Ward 1 Commissioner Arguelles** had no report.
- **Ward 6 Commissioner Colodny had** no report.

- **Ward 6 Commissioner Hicks –Charter** – discussed goals and objects of transportation Committee
- **Ward 4 Commissioner McCoy** discussed the progress of the ward 4 senior village he also requested volunteers to serve on the Governance Committee.
- **Ward 2 Commissioner Tai** reported that a first draft related to the Goals of the Education and Employment Committee has been submitted. From another viewpoint, it was determined that it was better that the Scope of the Committee not be limited at this time so that participants could feel more freedom to share their priorities, preferences, thoughts and contributions related to the education, employment and entrepreneurial goals of seniors. She reported that observations of some DC seniors related to education, employment and entrepreneurial goals: (1) Keep in mind that seniors enjoy intergenerational citywide innovative interactive activities. (2) Seniors and baby boomers thinking of retirement planning would appreciate more freedom from government paperwork and regulations so that all would have more energy left to invest in self-improvement, self-help and collaborative entrepreneurial efforts to move toward creating solutions to major challenges facing seniors.
- **Ward 6 Commissioner Swanda** stated that it has been a struggle establishing the Ward 6 mini commission, and that the mini commission met in February 2013. He reported that the Ward 6 lead agency now has a handicapped access ramp entrance, a requirement for all lead agencies.
- **Ward 5 Commissioner Thomas** reported that she met with the Ward 5 mini commissioners in January 2013. She reported that, under the leadership of Joe Harris, Secretary to the Ward 5 mini-commission, they are working diligently to recruit new participants to serve as mini-commissioners.
- **Ward Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby** – expressed her appreciation for being welcomed back to the commission, and stated that she looks forward to working with the commissioners to improve the quality of life for seniors in the District of Columbia.

II. New Business

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

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

Minutes recorded by Antonette Dozier, D.C. Office on Aging.

Minutes unanimously approved by Commission on Aging on April 24, 2013.