

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of April 23, 2014 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Ronald Swanda, Vice Chairperson; Jaqueline Arguelles; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Charles Hicks; Grace Lewis; Carolyn Nicholas; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

DCOA Staff Present:

Dr. John M. Thompson; Tanya Reid; Gail Kohn; Darryl Jackson; Camile Williams; Aurora Delespin-Jones; Brittney Carter; Darrell Jackson, Jr; Krystal Branton; and Antonette Dozier

Guests Present:

Lester Wynn of Seabury Connector; Vivian Grayton of Seabury; Betty Graham-House, a resident; Mr. Guleford Bobo of the Ward 8 mini-commission, and Ms. Betty Florence], Chairperson, Ward 4 Mini Commission

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:14 a.m., April 23, 2014 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Inspiration

Chairperson Thomas provided the inspirational message, “Destiny is not determined by what happens to us, but the choices we make.”

Presentations by Guest Speakers

Lester Wynn from Seabury Connector presented about transportation services provided by Seabury Resources for Aging. Also, Mrs. Aurora Delespin-Jones offered additional insight on the transportation program.

Ms. Wynn discussed:

- Seabury’s piloted extended hours
 - Currently offering Saturday service for 35 clients for dialysis and other medical appointments.
- 43 new vehicles will be operational within the next few months.

- Mrs. Delespin-Jones gave the passenger accommodations for the vehicles. Some vehicles are now equipped to hold up to 6 wheelchairs at a time.
- Centralized call center (202-727-7771)
 - Call center is located in the basement of the Washington Center for Aging Services, 2601 18th St., NE.
 - The call center currently has 7 operators.
 - Ms. Wynn offered to pick-up the Commissioners with one of the vehicles and take them to the call center.
- 3 transportation programs offered by Seabury connector
 - Transportation (Seabury Connector)
 - Curb to Curb Service passengers can call CREST if they need Door to Door service.
 - Dial call center for this service;
 - Takes passengers to medical appointments within the beltway.
 - The 8, 9, & 10 a.m. time slots are difficult to pick-up due to a failing fleet; however, this will be fixed when the new vehicles come online.
 - Group trips of 10+ people on Tuesday & Thursday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
 - It is a free service, however they will sometime ask for voluntary donations.
 - Call 'N' Ride (contracted cab service)
 - Curb to Curb Service passengers can call CREST if they need Door to Door service.
 - Dial call center for this service.
 - Contracted with 3 cab companies to pick-up seniors 60 and older
 - Taxi
 - Yellow cab
 - Diamond
 - Currently uses couponing system.
 - Purchase coupon booklets valued at \$40 for \$12.
 - Booklets are good from October 1 to September 30
 - In the process of switching over to charge card system.
 - Home delivered meals
 - Call ADRC for this service.
 - In the event of predicted inclement weather the meals will be delivered a day early.

Commissioner Hair asked about service to doctor's appointments on Oxon Hill Rd. in Maryland. Ms. Wynn needed said that she would research the issue and provide an answer.

Gail Kohn reported on the Age-Friendly City (AFC) DC Initiative. She stated that the Age-Friendly Cities initiative is a Work Health Organization effort. The process is on a 3-5 year cycle, which includes analysis, planning, evaluation, and implementation. For D, implementation will begin in 2015, and in 2017 we will assess the program's success.

Ms. Kohn reported on the status of the block by block neighborhood walk-throughs that are occurring as part of the Age Friendly City DC Initiative. She stated that the Single Member District walkthroughs are about 50 percent complete. She stated that the walkthroughs look at items like sidewalk conditions, services and amenities, and business initiatives. Service and amenities include eateries and, more importantly, grocery stores. AFC also has a business initiative component in an effort to make businesses more age-friendly, not just for residents but for the District's visitors which include 16.8 million seniors. Commissioner Hair pointed out that some stores, especially "mom and pop" stores, do not carry things that seniors need like 2% milk. Commissioner Nicholas asked if special lines for seniors and persons with disabilities were being considered.

Commissioner Swanda was concerned that AFC did not focus on long term goals. Therefore, he motioned to have the commission recommend that AFC consider both long and short term solutions. Dr. Thompson stated that DC has short, mid, and long term goals as the process is iterative. Commissioner Hicks seconded Commissioner Swanda's motion. Commissioners Arguelles and Wilson expressed that they did not believe a motion was necessary. The commission voted, and the results were: 2 for and 7 opposed. The motion did not pass.

Approval of Agenda

The members of the Commission on Aging approved the Agenda, and also approved the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting without corrections.

DCOA Update

Dr. Thompson spoke about the Budget Hearing on May 8th. DCOA has \$42m budget, a \$25m increase from when he started as Executive Director in 2011. He talked about DCOA's partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank. He stated that \$250,000 is budgeted for the Age Friendly D.C. Initiative., which is a good amount since DCOA is not the only agency working on AFC. In addition, if approved, requested budget increases will also be used to bolster Senior Wellness Centers. This effort not only encompasses the work done at the wellness centers but also health and wellness in the home. DCOA will also use the budget to do things such as, overhaul the IT infrastructure and increase the reimbursement rates for DCOA grantees.

Dr. Thompson reminded the Commission about the Annual Mayor's Senior Symposium on May 7th and informed them of the transportation options available for the event.

Committee Reports

- **Health and Wellness:** Commissioner Swanda reported that he would like the health and wellness to committee to work with the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA) on issues affecting seniors in the HIV population.
- Chairperson Thomas requested reports from each Committee at the May 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging.

Ward Reports

- **Ward 1:** Commissioner Arguelles said the Ward 1 senior wellness center had a “knowing your community” event. Seniors shared their experiences and history about the wellness center.
- **Ward 4:** Commissioner Wilson did not have anything in particular to report. However, he did invite Ms. Betty Florence to discuss concerns that she has in Ward 4. Commissioner Nicholas did not have a ward report; however she did mention that she participated on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council panel. She said that kids wanted seniors to assist with kids on the brink of trouble. She also mentioned that Rev. Dr. William Barber, President of the NC NAACP will be in DC for his Moral Monday Initiative possibly April 29, 2014. Reverend Hagler, Chair faith Strategies, and Reverend Willie Wilson, Union Temple Baptist Church, and co-chair, Faith Strategies, have taken the leadership to start a Moral Mondays movement will inspire the DC.
- **Ward 5:** Commissioner Lewis stated the mini commission has 15 active members. The next mini commission meeting is 5/21 the topic is “Safety and Security.”
- **Ward 6:** Commissioner Colodny stated that someone, he was not sure who, was trying to start a senior wellness center in Ward 6.
- **Ward 7:** Commissioner Woody was concerned about walkthroughs being conducted in Ward 7. She is also having problems at her wellness center.
 - **Ward 8:** Commissioner Hair informed us that Matthew Memorial Church hosted a graduation program for seniors in Ward 8 who completed the Family and Child Services technology training. The seniors learned how to operate ipod/iphones and other devices through the program. She also reported that the AARP Chapter and mini Commissions were active in the block by block effort.

Other Matters

Ward 4 mini commission chair, Ms. Betty Florence, requested ideas for raising money for the mini commission. She also wanted to know about the new licenses for DC; the commission stated they would possibly get a DMV representative to discuss this issue.

Mr. Bobo from ward 8 mini commission informed the group that Family Matters provides assistance for the hearing impaired.

Chairperson Thomas asked if the group would like to take Lester Wynn up on her offer to view Seabury Connector facility during the June retreat, the commission agreed that was something they wanted to do. She also asked Mr. Hicks to inquire and inform the Commissioners of the date of scheduled of elections for the Commission on Aging. Chairperson Thomas read a letter of thanks for the condolence letter sent to Commissioner McCoy.

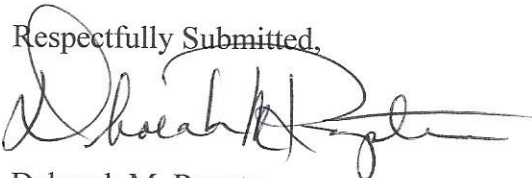
Chairperson Thomas spent \$95.12 for get well flowers for Councilmember Barry. The commission agreed to do that during a previous meeting. The commission members are to reimburse Chairperson Thomas.

Chairperson Thomas reported that Commissioner Willoughby's husband is retiring as Inspector General of the District of Columbia.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, April 23, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Tanya Reid, Executive Assistant, D.C. Office on Aging, and Antonette Dozier, Receptionist, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on May 28, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,


Deborah M. Royster
General Counsel
District of Columbia Office on Aging