

**D.C. Commission on Aging
Virtual Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 23, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Guleford Bobo, Chairperson, Carolyn Matthews Vice-Chairperson, JoAnne Hersh, Grace Lewis, Maria Wilson, Mary Taylor

DACL Staff Present

Garret King, Chief of Staff, Tanya Reid, Executive Assistant, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant

Guest Present

Vivian Guerra, DDOT; Amelia Siemson, from Councilmember Bonds Office; Cecily Mendie DPR; Judge Terrell, DOES; David Quick, DCPL

I. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Bobo asked for a moment of silence.

II. **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minute approval held until next meeting.

III. **Presentations**

a. **Department of Aging and Community Living Update**

Garret mentioned that Mayor Bowser's Virtual Senior Symposium on September 22nd was successful. Vice Chairperson Matthews mentioned that she had trouble calling in.

Garret informed the Commission that the Council would be holding hearings on bills B23-537, the Senior Co-living program, and B23-643, Keeping Seniors cool. He informed the Commission that they could testify or provide feedback, if interested.

IV. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Transportation** – Chairman Bobo mentioned that the Circulator will continue through Ward 7.
- b. **Health and Wellness** – Chairman Bobo mentioned that thanks to the senior wellness centers doing welfare checks, they discovered that a senior who had

previously unenrolled in DACL's meal program had lost weight, due to difficulties obtaining food from Peapod. He gladly reported that the senior was able to get emergency meals and is now reenrolled.

- c. **Employment** – Vice Chairperson Matthews mentioned that due to COVID-19 some seniors are afraid to get involved with DOES' Senior Employment program.

V. **Ward Reports**

- a. **Ward 1** – Vice Chair Matthews has been pushing DOEE's DC Cool Seniors program. She also reported that there have been a lot of shootings on Newton Street outside of Bernice Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center
- b. **Ward 2** – No Report
- c. **Ward 3** – No Report
- d. **Ward 4** – Commissioner Wilson seniors in the ward are concerned about voting, especially mail-in ballots.
- e. **Ward 5** – No Report
- f. **Ward 6** – No Report
- g. **Ward 7** – No Report
- h. **Ward 8** – Councilmember White held a phone town hall with seniors. Seniors had concerns about getting their IDs updated during COVID. East River Family Strengthening Collaborative informed seniors that they could help.

VI. **Ex-Officio Updates**

- a. **Council** – Aimelia Siemson reported that Council is wrapping up Council session 23. They've had roundtables on tenant protection and eviction. Any questions can be sent to housing@dccouncil.us.
- b. **DDOT** – Vivian Guerra reported that the Age Friendly DC transportation committee met. They discussed and assessed their goals. DDOT, WMATA, and DFHV are collaborating make sure they are being supportive of staff and the public during the public health emergency. DDOT is continuing to work on the Slow Streets initiatives. DDOT is also updating the District's long range transportation plan, which is a 20-year plan that is updated every five years.
- c. **DOH** – Veronica Longstreth reminded the Commission to stay safe during the pandemic. The latest updates related to virus can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov
- d. **DCPL** – MLK library is finished but cannot open due to the pandemic. Some libraries have a "Take-Out Plus" program, which allows people to come in and briefly use the computers and print documents. Polling boxes will be in front of all libraries except Lamond Riggs.
DPR – Cecily Mendie reported that DPR will be resuming some programming in October. A fair-weather fitness program, virtual book club, and young at art

programs. These programs will be outside, it will be about 15 registered participants. As DPR opens, they'll only start out with about 20 sites. Chairman Bobo asked if DPR had thoughts on increasing the number of senior sites. Ms. Mendie stated that currently it was not.

VII. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Elections were postponed until October.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:21am

These minutes were recorded by Lance Holt, Staff Assistant, DC Department of Aging and Community Living, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on October 28, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lance Holt

/s/ Lance Holt

Staff Assistant

DC Department of Aging and Community Living