

D.C. Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 24, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Guleford Bobo, Chairperson, Carolyn Matthews Vice-Chairperson, Nancy Miranda, JoAnne Hersh, Barbara Lee, Hattie Pierce, Maria Wilson, Alice Love

DACL Staff Present

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

Guest Present

Vivian Guerra, DDOT; Veronica Longstreth, DOH; Aimellia Siemson, DC Council

I. **Presentations**

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

Director Newland informed the Commission that DACL was waiting on the Committee markup for the budget, but she did not anticipate any budget reductions. Chairperson Bobo asked the Director how her 2021 budget was received. The Director thought it was received well by the community and the Council. The Director also informed the Commission that DHCD has a new rent program that helps all DC residents who cannot pay their rent due to COVID-19.

b. **Questions/Concerns from the Commissioners**

Chairperson Bobo mentioned that he watched the DPR hearings and heard Director Hunter state that DPR was doing a lot of things involving seniors, he wondered if they were coordinating with DACL. The Director responded that she had been talking to Director Hunter about how the agencies could work together.

Vice-Chairperson Matthews is working with ANC Commissioner Ward 1 on the lead pipe situation. DOEE said she was qualified, and DC Water said she did not. DC Water records are not up-to-date, and they need to do more investigation. DC Water & DOEE are not on the same page. She told the Commissioners if any other Commissioners heard of people being turned down for the program, forward the information to her and she will help investigate.

Commissioner Miranda mentioned that the online grid is not accurate; there are no funds available for proper cleaning. We are looking for guidance with Garfield Terrace.

Commissioner Pierce flagged that a senior was having trouble accessing Safe at Home, she was able to help the senior get a stair lift. She has the contact number of the person who helped her, if other Commissioners needed the number. Director Newland stated that Safe at Home is currently only doing emergency home adaptations but encouraged the Commissioners to send the names of seniors who having trouble accessing services from DACL to her.

Commissioner Miranda had concerns about Garfield Terrace. Normally the building uses income from the use of the building's washers and dryers to get the building cleaned, but people have not been using the machine's and the building is not clean. Aimellia from Councilmember Bonds' office will follow up with the concern.

Commissioner Lee asked about masks and hand sanitizers for seniors. Director Newland stated that the agency is not handing out masks or hand sanitizer to seniors. Commissioner Pierce recommended contacting the ANC Commissioner for assistance.

Commissioner Wilson asked if DACL has a way of reaching out to seniors who are home alone. The Director informed the Commissioners about the Call and Talk line.

Chairperson Bobo thanked Director Newland and her staff for their help.

Vice-Chairperson Matthews wants to know the accounting of the number of Commissioners. She was concerned about not having the right amount of people in the meetings.

Commissioner Bobo asked Aimellia about the residential facility at Walter Reed. Aimellia gave an update.

II. Ward Reports

Ward 1

Vice Chair Matthews testified for MPD budget. She stated some of the people were vulgar, out of 90 only about 6 people discussed the budget.

Ward 2

No updates. Chairperson Bobo asked that Commissioner Hersh update him on Stead rec center, he's interested in it.

Ward 3

No Update

Ward 4

No update

Ward 5

No update

Ward 6

No Update

Ward 7

No Update

Ward 8

New hospital coming to Ward 1 next Howard University, it will be run by the Adventist group. New hospital coming to Ward 8 on St. Elizabeth's, it will be run by George Washington University. The concerns about the hospital in Ward 8 is that the current hospital does not have programming for seniors, so the community wants to be sure that new hospital does.

Chairperson Bobo is working Age Friendly to provide work opportunities for seniors in the healthcare field on a part-time basis. Seniors are concerned that working part-time will put their housing benefits, etc. in jeopardy. It is currently focused in Wards 5 & 8, due to location of new facilities. Vice Chairperson Matthews would like it to be for all DC residents. He thinks the efforts will be expanded.

He also thanked Vivian Guerra for assisting with the Washington Wellness Center to get the traffic calmer.

Chairperson Bobo thanked the Commissioners for all of the work they have been doing for the District's seniors.

Chairperson Bobo said that he would send out an email for the July meeting.

III. Public Comments

Vivian Guerra mentioned that the Vision Zero team focuses on the safety of all populations; the Commissioners should continue to forward traffic concerns to her and she will get the information to the right people.

She also informed the Commissioners of DDOT's COVID-19 responses. Some initiatives like "Slow Street", "Streeteries" that allows more room for restaurants to have outside dining, sidewalk extensions/expansions. She encouraged the Commissioners to contact DDOT if they know of restaurants/businesses that will benefit from pick-up/drop-off.

There is emergency proposed rule making for the dockless program to allow for fleet increases under certain conditions. There is a 30-day public comment period. The Commission should feel free to provide comment.

The DC Circulator Transit development plan which looking for the circulator to expand with a new route in Ward 7. There has not been a lot of public outreach due to COVID. No decision will be made until there has been robust public outreach. A lot of data analysis is still being done.

Aimellia asked if the Commissioners had any feedback on meal delivery. Commissioner Miranda stated she's heard only 30 out of 180 residents, an extensive list was sent to DACL of all residents. Mr. Jackson says that Terrific, Inc. is not providing all of the meals that they are supposed. Chief of Staff Garret King stated that Terrific, Inc. knocked on everyone's door to ensure they were not missing any seniors. All of the seniors that wanted meals were receiving meals. He also stated if Mr. Jackson has any seniors he think were missed, he can share with DACL.

Commissioner Bobo stated he's heard positive feedback about the meals.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06am.

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 July 22, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lance Holt

/s/ Lance Holt

Lance Holt

Staff Assistant

DC Department of Aging and Community Living