

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

*June 9, 2022 – DRAFT [July 9, 2022]
Virtual Meeting*

Members Present: Chair, Babs Waters; Canek Aguirre; Mary Lee Anderson; Ray Biegun; Joanne Broderick; Barbara D’Agostino; Dawn Higgins; Barabara Huelat; Michael Kamin; Michael Kreps; Karen McKeon; Ellen Nelson; Tom Reeder; Michael Schuster; Lois Steele; William Campbell.

Members Excused: David Kaplan; Gerri Wallace; Jim Lindsay

Liaisons Present: Anne Coyne; Ian Torrance; Pamela Guerra ; Jan Macidull; Margaret Orlando; Evelyn Quiles, Darrell Wesley.

Staff Members Present: Pam Austin; Kim Taylor; Sharnae Eure; Christopher Moore.

Guests Present: Zeina Azzam; Gaynelle Diaz; Michael Doyle; Cedar Dvorin; Bob Eiffert; Jane King; Jonathon Krall; Jessica LeFevre; Kim Taylor.

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Babs Waters called the June meeting of the Commission on Aging (“COA”) to order at 4:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The May minutes were approved unanimously with two corrections: Jenn Stowe was officially excused from attending the May meeting, and Karen McKoen was present at the May meeting.
4. **Alexandria Police Department Liaison Report.** Sgt. Torrance gave an update on the March 29th accident involving an older pedesdrian. He answered some questions relating to the recent alleged murder of an Alexandria City High School student at the Bradlee Centre. He said that the City Council has approved entending the use of Special Officers (SRO) in Alexandria City Public Schools for another year.
5. **Special Presentation:** Mr. Michael Doyle of Families for Safe Streets presented. In 2016, he was severely injured in an accident involving a driver who failed to yield to Mr. Doyle who was legitimately in the crosswalk of an intersection. Ever since he has been an advocate for safe streets. Their website is www.alxffss.org. Residents who have near misses while walking or cycling can record the information on the website. As of June 2022, there were 1,393 near misses reported. Most of the “near misses” involve negligent or distracted drivers. Mr. Doyle encouraged the Commission to get the word out about his organization, especially in non-English communities, where he believes there is underreporting of near misses. He said they will be working with the Virginia Department of Transportation to intergrate their crash data with the near miss data.

6. **Executive Committee Report.** Materials were part of the Agenda.

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

- a. **Update on COA Excellence in Aging Awards, scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 via Zoom – Barbara D’Agostino.** Barbara thanked Babs and Pam Austin for all of their preparatory work leading up to the May 10th award ceremony, presided over by Mayor Justin Wilson. The winners were: Susanne Adams (Annie B. Rose Lifetime Achievement Award); Babs Waters and Frederick Readon (Lois Van Valkenburg Excellence in Aging Award for an Individual); Home Aid Northern Virginia (Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization); Terri Lynch (Public Service Award).
- b. **Age-Friendly Final Reports to be sent to AARP.** Jane King would like to complete the evaluations by the end of June, and finalize the new plan by September.
- c. **Draft Testimony on the 2023 FY Draft Annual Plan for Housing and Community Development.** Michael Schuster reported that the hearing went well, and that the vice mayor seemed interested in the Commission’s focus on Mixed Income and Affordable Assisted Living.
- d. **Covid-19 Vaccination Updates.** Gerri Wallace reported that under the new CDC criteria that Alexandria is still in the Medium range. As of June 8th, the City of Alexandria reports that 77.2% or 119,522 residents are fully vaccinated, and 85.5% or 131,583 are either partially or fully vaccinated. In Virginia, over 7 million or 824% received at least one vaccination, and over 6 million or 73.8% are fully vaccinated. For questions about Covid-19, call 703-746-4988, and to get alerts, text ALEXCOVID19 to 888777.
- e. **Installation of COA 2022-2033 Officers:** Michael Schuster, Chair; Barbara D’Agostino, Vice Chair; and Barbara Heulat, Secretary, were sworn in as the new officers of the COA by Councilmember, Canek Aquirre.

8. **Liaison Report**

- a. *Division of Aging and Adult Services.* Christopher Moore, the director of the division, updated the commission on activities within the division. He welcomed the new DAAS Management Analyst, Sharnee Eure
- b. *AHA.* Bob Eiffert said they are doing in-person events. In June, they will celebrate their 11 year anniversary.
- c. *AARP.* Jane King said that AARP had a picnic for its volunteers. They are doing programs on decluttering, downsizing, Social Security, drug prices and current movies.
- d. *Human Rights Commission* – Tom Reeder said his first meeting of the commission was on May 27, 2022. The committee discussed a “rainbow crosswalk” which the Alexandria City is not in favor of because of federal regulations.

- e. *Virginia Hospital Center* -No report. Its new name is “VHC Health.”
 - f. *Commission for Women*. Nothing to report.
 - g. *Commission on Persons with Disabilities*. Michael Kamin reported that they have met in person three times. They discussed issues around scooters, and the lack of prompt response to complaints. They also discussed concerns about employment discrimination.
 - h. NVAN – NVAN will meet again on July 19th to finally approve the three legislative and three budget platform statements dealing with evictions, electronic meetings, guardians and conservators, sick leave for all care workers, funding options for assisted living and nursing home staffing standards.
 - i. *Senior Center at Charles Houston*. Pam Guerra said they reopened on a full schedule.
- 9.
- a. *Arlington Legislative Committee*.
 - b. *St. Martins Senior Center*. Anne Coyne submitted a written report as part of the Agenda packet.
 - i. *Senior Services of Alexandria*. Mary Lee reported on the upcoming speaker’s series. The Health Fitness Fair at the Lee Center was a success. More than 80 people attended and the Health Department gave free vaccinations. The Senior Law Day – “What I Wish I knew” - on June 4th had over 200 attendees and many information booths throughout the venue. The Senior Academy will be meeting in September.
 - j. *Alexandria Commission on Employment*. Evelyn Quiles gave a report on the Work Development Center. The work experience program has enrolled 46 persons, 66% of their goal. The average wage is \$18.52. Thirty one participants have completed the program. Twenty three percent of the participants are 55+. Their goal is to place participants into permanent jobs. The Center is looking for more host employers.
 - k. *Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Alliance, NVFPA*. Mary Lee Anderson said the Alliance’s federal grant will not be extended and they are looking for additional sources of funding.
 - l. *Successful Aging*. Margaret Orlando said the intergenerational dance in collaboration with the Alexandria High School was held on Friday, May 13th with over 80 participants, including 25-30 high school seniors.
 - m. *Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities*. Margaret Orlando said her department worked at the Health Fair, summer classes have started, and the outdoor pools are open.

- n. *Alexandria Adult Day Services Center.* Darrell Wesley said that participants are slowly coming back to the center. The Center is seeing improvement in the mental health of the participants. The Center has hired a recreational therapist.
- o. *Housing Affordability Advisory Committee.* Jan Macidull submitted a written report. She also gave an oral report on the developments on the Hillco development at the old power plant location.

10. **Committee Updates.**

- a. *Housing.* At the June meeting, Tamara Jovovic gave a presentation on some proposed practical changes to the developer affordable housing contribution policy.
- b. *Outreach.* The Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30m
- c. *Transportation.* The Committee meets on the fourth Monday of each month.
- d. *Economic Development.* Mary Lee Anderson gave a brief report.
- e. *Strategic Planning.*
- f. *Health/Dementia Friendly.* Barbara Huelat reported that June is Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

11. **Other Business.** None.

12. **Meeting Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Minutes will be presented at the Thursday, September 8, 2022, COA meeting for approval. The next Executive Committee meeting is on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Michael Schuster, COA Secretary.

AS OF JUNE 8, 2022 – Submitted by Gerri Wallace

Transmission rate - City of Alexandria

Current Community Level is MEDIUM (YELLOW)

Vaccinations – City of Alexandria

119,522 or 77% fully vaccinated

131,583 or 85.5% partially and fully vaccinated

State of VA

7M,075K or 82.4% received at least one vaccine

6M,340K or 73.8% fully vaccinated

Cases, death & 7-day average – City of Alexandria

Total cases since yesterday 35,220

Total death since yesterday 189

7-day average of cases 93.1

Demographics

Compared to:

Years 45-54 = -0.3%

Years 18-24 = 2.8%

Years 55-64 = -2.7%

Years 25-34 = 4.6%

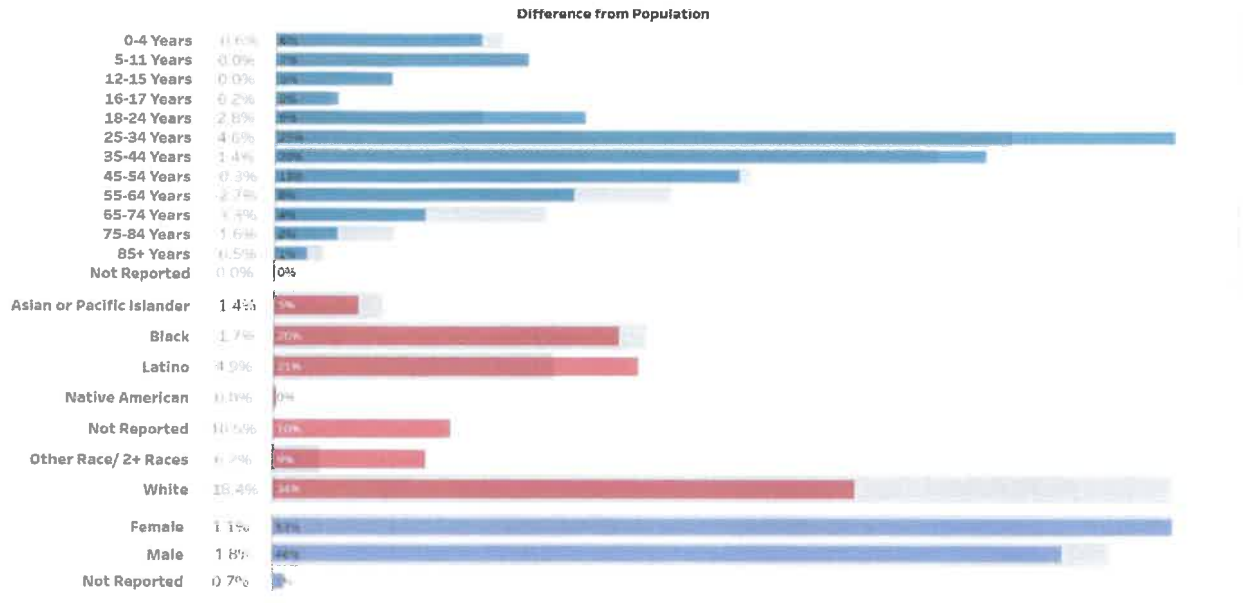
Years 65-74 = -3.3%

Years 35-44 = 1.4%

Years 75-84 = -1.6%

Years 85+ = -0.5%

Demographics table:



Multiple choice, radio button, or checkbox

Data sources: (a) Department of Health, US Census 2016 ACS Data (Estimated)

Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee Report

Live Meeting – June 2, 2022

Topics Covered

1. Consideration of Affordable Housing Plan for the Potomac River Generating Station Coordinated Development District (CDD) in Old Town North – Action: Affordable Housing Plan Approved

What is a CDD? “A CDD is a form of zoning which is established for areas which are of such size or are so situated as to have significant development-related impacts on the city as a whole or a major portion thereof and in order to promote development consistent with the City’s master plan. A site zoned CDD is intended for a mixture of uses to include office, residential, retail, hotel and other uses with appropriate open space and recreational amenities to serve the project users and residents of the city. A CDD zone is intended to encourage land assemblage and/or cooperation and joint planning where there are multiple owners in the CDD zoned area.” (Per Housing Office) “

Voluntary Affordable Housing Contribution Proposed by developer (HRG):

- Approximately \$8 to 11million contribution to the Housing Trust Fund over the life of the project. “The final contribution will be a function of the final land use mix and the affordable housing contribution rates in effect at the time of future DSUP applications.”
- Approximately 58-65 on-site affordable set-aside units (none specifically for seniors)
- Good faith effort to create a public-private partnership “ stand-alone affordable building or as affordable units co-located with non-residential or resident market rate development.” This could yield up to 100 additional affordable units.

Implications for COA

- High priority of COA Housing Committee: Potential for Mixed Income Affordable Assisted Living.
- Transportation Committee: Next phase deals with transportation. Staff are mixed on use of brick sidewalks. Safety for seniors could be a real issue with multi-modal “woonerf” area with cars, bikes and people all together.

2. Briefing on ARHA’s Samuel Madden Redevelopment Project

This property is the large complex of brick town homes across from the Carpenter’s Shelter on Henry Street. Developers: Fairstead and Hill Creek.
Proposed:

- 529 rental homes
 - 321 units are affordable and workforce housing, half for very low income
 - Market rate and affordable units mixed throughout buildings
 - Amenities available to all.
- A food hub run by ALIVE
- Public park with pool
- Childcare and early learning center run by Hopkins House

Implications for COA:

- Could explore external walkability for visiting seniors

3. Consideration of a Predevelopment Loan for Elbert Avenue Community Lodgings Project in Arlandria Action: Approved

28 apartment homes are currently in a flood plain and need renovation. Plans are to move from 3 e-story buildings to a U-shaped 6 story building with 91 units, 100 % affordable (including deeply affordable).

Implications for COA:

- Outreach Committee: Multi-generational Hispanic. families live in this area. Will units be large enough to accommodate them? (80% of units are 2 bedroom).

4. Consideration of a Predevelopment Loan for 2712 Duke Street (former Land Rover Sales and Service Site) Action: Approved

Developer is Community Housing Partners, 8th largest nonprofit affordable housing developer in US. Proposed: 4/5 multi-family building, approximately 90 units 40-60% AMI, 2- and 3-bedroom units.

Implications for COA: Nothing at this time.

AHAAC will next meet in September.

Notes by Jan Macidull, COA's AHAAC representative.

City of Alexandria, Commission on Aging
DRAFT Outreach Committee Minutes
June 22, 2022, 11:30 a.m. Via Zoom

This meeting was held electronically. A determination was made that it was not safe enough to be held in person.

Members Present: Ray Biegun, Barbara D'Agostino, Margaret Orlando, Jane King, Babs Waters, Gary Hacker, Gerri Wallace, Tom Reeder, and Angela Redfearn

Absent: Dawn Higgins and MaryAnne Beatty

Hosting staff: Pamela Austin

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Ray Biegun.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda and minutes were approved as proposed.

2. Welcome

Margaret introduced Angela Redfearn. Angela would like to join the Outreach Committee, as Margaret is retiring. She will work on Goal #1.

Ray spoke about relationship building and the need to understand the culture and needs of the individuals we are reaching out to. The prior Age Friendly Plan (2018) had a column, "Special Considerations" which references this.

Gary spoke of Muslim women and their resistance to available information. He learned that he needed to dig in to see what worked for this culture. He learned of dos and don'ts regarding their view of the medical community. He is also updating an "Elder Muslim Concerns" document he did for COA Diversity Committee in 2019 and will share that with us.

Gary attended Senior Law Day and the keynote speaker spoke on the aging process and "solo aging/older orphans." They are isolated when they do not have family present. It is more helpful to know the needs of the community you are reaching out to before passing out information.

Jane commented that we need to find the leaders in these communities and reach out to them. She believes SSA has a relationship with an Ethiopian community. Also talking with council members can be helpful if for no other reason than to encourage voting.

Gary encouraged innovative approaches. He talked about relationships with some church organizations. He agreed that SSA has done great work in these areas.

3. Updates on Outreach to:

LGBTQ community: There was a Pride Day celebration on June 4 at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Ray thanked Pam for staffing the table. Ray previously sent members a flyer that was especially useful.

Faith Community: No update.

Senior Ambassadors:

Barbara reported that MaryAnne was not able to attend but submitted her report. SSA trained 7 new senior ambassadors including several members of the Commission on Aging. SSA had a successful Senior Law Day on June 4. SSA is planning an in person Senior Academy class in September.

4. Committee Planning for 2022

Margaret introduced Angela Redfearn. Angela will be joining the Outreach Committee, as Margaret is retiring. She will work on Goal #1.

During the summer, team may want to look at any lessons learned from past activities; and explore resources from AARP and other Age Friendly communities. Ray and Barbara continue to be available to support the teams.

The teams are broken out below and include any updates:

Social Participation Goal #1 - Older adults are aware of and are increasingly comfortable accessing services available in the city and are engaged in civic and community life.

MaryAnne
Pam
Angela (replacing Margaret)
Jane

Social Participation Goal #2 - Create inclusive services for LGBTQ older adults

Gerri
Ray

Will discuss interfacing with LGBTQ task force. Gerri is becoming familiar with SAGE organization.

Communications Goal #1 – Communication of information

Dawn
Gerri

Dawn is out of town. Gerri read the Age Friendly Plan, prescribed by AARP. Need more direction and wishes to set up separate meeting and regroup. Jane would like to be part of this.

Communications Goal #2 – Relationship with SSA and other organizations

Barbara
Tom
MaryAnne

Wish to identify and establish relationships other organizations in addition to SSA. Tom recommended reaching out to the Spanish community, such as Casa Chirilagua. However, they focus on youths, but they have interest in expanding base. Tom would like to make a connection. Gary had a speaker at church focused on youth, but they have an SSA Ambassador that said there were few seniors. Census bureau has a tool to dig down into city to find out where seniors are. Someone in city working on demographic work.

Babs stated that Chris will receive a report from a city demographer.

Other – Assessment and measurement (what we learned, what worked, what did not work, etc.)

Gary
Dawn
Ray

Jane mentioned that, if possible, please make the goals measurable and track the change of measure, as this is important to AARP. Since the last committee meeting, Jane sent information from AARP on resources to help with this plan. She will resend as there are innovative ideas.

5. Follow up Items

Members were asked to continue to review the prior evaluation from the last 3 years as well as the Alexandria Age Friendly Plan for a Livable Community regarding the goal they chose. Be prepared to discuss approaches at the next meeting and we can then determine cross overs.

Dawn was absent; however, she will reach out to the Council of Social Work Education on diversity. **Reached out to colleague and will follow up.**

Pam discussed minority owned businesses and how we may provide information. Victoria suggested finding out if there is a list from the city and reaching out to these businesses. **Pam will check into this. Babs stated that Chris will receive a report from a city demographer.**

Pam reported a few months ago that a new attorney at Alexandria Law wants to meet with Alexandria seniors and do a presentation, starting with Senior Centers. Elizabeth M. Crego, Staff Attorney
Legal Services of Northern Virginia **No date set.**

5. Public comments: None

6. Date of next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 28 September 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Location to be determined, as in person meetings are required starting in September. Date and time may change.

The committee voted to take a summer break and will not be meeting in July or August 2022.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Notes prepared by Barbara D'Agostino, COA Vice-Chair