

**D.C. Commission on Aging
Draft Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 26, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Guleford Bobo, Chairperson, Carolyn Matthews Vice-Chairperson, Barbara Hair, JoAnne Hersh, Grace Lewis, Hattie Pierce, Mary Taylor

DACL Staff Present

Garret King, Chief of Staff, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant

Ex-Officio Present

Vivian Guerra, DDOT; Aimelia Siemson, from Councilmember Bonds Office; Judge Terrell, DOES; David Quick, DCPL; Veronica Longstreth, DC Health

Guest Present

Veronica Ingram, Ward 4 Mini Commission; Joelle, Program Manager from the Washington Home; Heather Foote, Age-Friendly City; Deborah Grimstead, Alzheimer's Association

I. **Call to Order**

Chairperson Bobo called the meeting to order at 10:09 am with a moment of silence.

II. **Presentations**

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

Chief of Staff Garret King provided an update on the Performance Oversight Hearing that took place the day before from 10am – 7pm. He mentioned that the agency's strategic plan was discussed during the hearing. DACL is set to hire three staff members to help with the strategic plan. Housing and employment were also discussed during the hearing.

Chairman Bobo stated he wanted an update on the 14 senior housing projects in the works. Mr. King stated he would try to get DHCD to attend March's meeting.

Commissioner Hersh asked what the topics around employment were. Mr. King stated that Councilmember Bonds and Silverman have been hearing there is lack of employment for seniors. He mentioned that Director Newland and the DOES' Director have been meeting to come up with ideas to help with this issue. He also encouraged the Commission to present any ideas they had.

Vice Chairman Matthews recommended working with the Department of Labor because the poverty level is not reflective of actuality.

Chairman Bobo had concerns about apartment complexes slated as a village. Mr. King said some members of the apartments do believe they are a village.

Chairman Bobo also pointed out that Villages are doing a good job of collaborating.

Vice Chair Matthews asked if Villages will be put across the city. Mr. King stated Villages are grassroots, it is driven by the Community.

Commissioner Lee asked if DACL is aware of housing issues for seniors in Brookland. Mr. King was not aware of any concerns but stated Commissioner Lee can refer any concerns to him.

Mr. King informed the Commission that the agency's budget oversight hearing is scheduled for April 3, 2020. He also gave dates of the DACL's budget townhall meetings:

- March 23, 2020 at RISE Demonstration Center
- March 24, 2020 at St. Albans
- March 25, 2020 at the Prince Masonic Hall
- March 27th at Vida Brightwood

III. **Ward Reports**

- a. **Ward 1** – Vice Chair Matthews attended the Mayor's Budget Forum in Edgewood. At Chairwoman Matthews' table they thought Early Childhood development was important. The census was that by helping kids and their parents early on a lot of the issues with housing, crime, etc. would be curtailed.

She also brought the concern of "no-papering" drug dealers and users. She'd like to have someone from the US Attorney's office to attend the Commission meeting. Judge Terrell mentioned that it is not always that the dealers are being "no papered", they are being released until they go to trial.

There was a lengthy issue over crime and safety.

- b. **Ward 2** – Commissioner Hersh reached out to the Lead Agency directors in Ward 2. She met with the Lead agency Director for Terrific and IONA. She got an overview of each of their services.
- c. **Ward 8** – Chairman Bobo said he attended several meetings; one was in PG County where Domestic Violence was a topic. His takeaway is that people's concerns of abuse should be taken seriously.

He also attended a meeting at the Asian Pacific Islander meeting, the concern he heard was there was not a lot of Asian speaking providers.

Additionally, he spoke about concerns regarding DPR. Vice Chair Matthews piggybacked and stated she had concerns about DPR's budget for seniors.

Commissioner Hair mentioned that Mr. Yates and the YMCA did a workout class at the Village.

IV. **Ex-Officio Updates**

- a. **Council** – Aimelia Siemson reported that Councilmember Bonds had some follow up questions from the hearing. She asked how the Commission assesses/discovers community needs. Chairman Bobo stated each Commissioner is involved in their community. They are connected through ANCs, churches, etc. The Commissioners do outreach in their communities. Commissioner Hersh added that at each of the Commission’s meetings the Commissioners report back any concerns they have.
- b. **DOH** – Veronica Longstreth stated there is a fact sheet about Coronavirus on the DC Health website. People can refer to the fact sheet to help avoid rumors.

Ward 4 Mini Commissioner Chair, Veronica Ingram, asked if the District has their own guidelines. Ms. Longstreth stated that DC follows the CDC guidelines.

- c. **DDOT** – Vivian Guerra informed the Commission that she is willing to bring in DDOT staff from specific areas, such as the Circulator, to address any questions/concerns that the Commission may have.

She also told the Commission that the Age Friendly transportation domain will meet on March 4th at DDOT headquarters.

DDOT’s Community engagement team is having community engagement meetings in each ward. The next meeting will be in Ward 3 on March 14th.

She also encouraged the Commission to participate in DDOT’s budget hearing on April 6th.

V. **Public Comment**

Deborah Grimstead of the Alzheimer’s Association encouraged the Commissioners to submit their Census questionnaire in timely fashion.

Heather Foote, Age Friendly City, reported she is ongoing discussion with the Department for Hired Vehicles. She has concerns about the senior accessibility of the information that gets out, especially in wards 4, 5, 7, and 8. She is concerned that many seniors are not aware of the transportation options available. She announced that the Ward 7 senior wellness center provided good feedback.

Janice Williams works with the Ward 4 Mini Commission and Brandon Todd’s advisory council. She wanted to advise the agency that Hattie Holmes did not have security. Mr. King was aware of the issue and has informed DGS about it.

Veronica Ingram, Chair of the Ward 4 Mini Commission, announced that the Mini Commission’s swearing in ceremony will take place on March 12th.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:11pm

These minutes were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on XXXX.

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