

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Draft Retreat Minutes ¹ for
Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

Attendance

Commissioners: Guleford Bobo, Chairman; Vice Chairperson Carolyn Matthews, Charles Hicks, Barbara Lee, Grace J. Lewis, Alice Love, Nancy Miranda, Hattie Pierce, Marguerite Pridgen, Mary Taylor

Ex-Officio: Hector Rodriquez

Members of the Public: Veronica Ingram, Sam McCoy, Sandra Warren, Lynnette Barnhardt

D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) Staff Present: Laura Newland, Director; Garret King, Chief of Staff; Adam Mingal General Counsel, Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant.

I. Welcome & Greetings

Chairman Bobo and Director Newland, Office of Aging and Community Affairs both offered a welcome and greetings.

II. Mission

Chairman Bobo stated that the goal of the retreat would be to update the mission statement with no more than three goals to address in FY2020. The Commission would then focus three months on each issue.

General Counsel Mingal read the Commission's current mission statement.

Director Newland discussed Adult Protective Services (APS), she was how can the transition be smooth, Director Newland said that she has been in contact with Director Laura Zeilinger, (DHS).

With APS coming under DACL's umbrella, Commissioner Love felt that the commissioners should have more understanding about APS. Director Newland said she would have Heather Stowe, DACL's Clinical Director, have someone from APS attend an upcoming commissioner meeting to discuss their roles. She also said that APS will temporarily be housed at DHS but will be part of DACL's Portfolio.

Commissioner Hicks would like to know how the Commission on Aging can recommend and effect policy.

Commissioner Pierce was interested in how the Commission could support social workers.

¹ The final (approved) meeting minutes will be posted on the Commission's next meeting date.

Commissioner Lewis was interested in Senior living in the facilities, Transportation, and Hospitals.

Guest Lynnette Barnhardt suggested affordable housing because rents start in the city at 2,500.

Commissioner Miranda suggested the goals should be clean and simple.

III. Ward Input Session

Each commissioner summarized the issues they heard about in their wards.

Ward 1

Commissioner Miranda stated there was a crisis in her ward. Thousands of seniors were about to be displaced. The Mayor's office identified fourteen properties that will be shut down for renovation, four of the properties are in Ward 1. The seniors do not have legal representation, they need independent attorneys. She also stated that more handicapped parking was needed, and that bikes and scooters should not be on the sidewalk.

Vice Chair Matthews stated that real property tax was an issue, senior's taxes should only go to a certain level. She'd also like to see more funding for transportation and safety. She informed the commission that Council took \$2.5 Million from the Police Force; more police presence is needed.

Ward 2

General Counsel Mingal read a statement from Commissioner Hersh. She received feedback from the community.

- Claridge Towers seeks replacement of stolen computer equipment
- Georgetown Village would like more funding, housing and environment, no Health and Wellness Center
- Circle Village no Health and Wellness Center

Ward 3

Commissioner Pridgen reported that pedestrian safety was important. There is more traffic on residential streets. She talked with DDOT, scooters are a problem. More scooter and bike racks are needed. There should be incentives for ride sharing. Wellness should be incentivized.

Ward 4

Ward 4 Mini-Commission Chair Ingram said affordable housing, gentrification, lower to moderate housing units, help with real property tax assessments were important. She pointed out that there was no hospital or urgent care facilities in Ward 4. Mental and behavioral health amongst seniors was important, cost of living adjustment, scooters and bikes on sidewalks was an issue in her ward, and there is need for more handicapped street parking.

Ward 5

Commissioner Lee would like a cap on real property taxes, address DDOT, senior housing, and safety.

Commissioner Pierce would like to focus on transportation, health, Providence Hospital closing, safety in senior buildings, and buses to hold more motorized wheelchairs.

Commissioner Lewis would like to focus on seniors living in isolation and sizes of subsidized housing apartments for seniors, some are not big enough to accommodate wheelchairs.

Ward 6

Commissioner Love would like to focus on affordable housing and property taxes.

Commissioner Hicks said seniors need subsidized parking spaces, he'd also like to address needs of LGBTQ seniors. He informed the committee that he has been working with Councilmember Allen to have Director Newland at meetings in the community to explain what the Office of Aging and Community Living does.

Ward 7

Commissioner Taylor indicated that crime, homelessness, and a lack of hospitals were issues.

Ward 8

Commissioner Hair said affordable housing was an issue.

Chairman Bobo stated employment for seniors, safety in the wellness centers, and Community were issues.

Hector Rodriquez on behalf Councilmember Anita Bond suggested the Commission should contact their councilmembers to help with the issues presented.

IV. Prioritization

The topics presented in during the “Ward input” were clustered into 5 categories: Housing, Health and Wellness, Transportation, Safety, and other. Commissioners then voted to select at least one priority from each category. After reviewing all of the categories the Commission settled on focusing on two topics for FY20: Real Property Tax/affordable housing and mental and behavioral health.

VII. Wrap-Up

Beginning in September, the Commission will spend ninety days working on one of the two topics, followed by the second topic. Once all topics have been addressed, the Commission will present this information to Council. Administrative Support Manager Reid agreed to send a recap to Chairman Bobo in time for the September meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. Lance Holt
Staff Assistant
DC Department of Aging and Community Living