

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging  
Meeting Minutes for  
Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Guleford Bobo, Chairman; Carolyn Matthews, Vice Chairwoman; Barbara Hair; Barbara Lee; Grace Lewis; Mary Taylor; Nancy Miranda; Hattie Pierce

**Ex-Officio Members:** Anita Bonds (DC Council); Veronica Longstreth (DOH);

**Members of the Public:** Hector Rodriguez (DC Council); Irene Kang (DC Council); Ron Swanda (Former Ward 6 Commissioner); Heather Foote

**D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) Staff Present:** Laura Newland, Director; Garret King, Chief of Staff; Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager; Christian Barrera, Deputy Chief of Staff (DACL);

**I. Call to Order**

Guleford Bobo (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the Commission's February 20, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved without correction.

**III. Presentation(s)**

**D.C. Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) Update**

Director Laura Newland's made mention that she would be given Ten Town Hall Meetings starting the first week of April to discuss the Mayor's Budget. There would be a total reduction agency savings. Total number Safe at Home Six Million. Adult Protective Services (APS) will be shifting to the Department of Aging before 10/1/19. APS will be coming from 64 New York Avenue, Total number of FTE's 24 people. This means that the building will have to be reconfigured. 80% of what APS does is assisting seniors. Director Newland stated that she would like to move quickly to address problems and continuity. What are we able to do, provide better service, oversight, clarity, be consistent. Garret King, Chief of Staff would be in charge of operations and transition of movement for a smooth process.

Commissioner Nancy Miranda, Ward 1 had a question regarding Safe at Home. Director Newland said that there would be a 2-million-dollar increase, base budget would be 4 million dollars Commissioner Miranda asked about the disbursement of funds through the wards. Director Newland said that is done through historical numbers, influence of councilmembers, grants that are available and spending needs. Commissioner Miranda shared a suggestion that she received from the community that the "budget advisory committees" should mostly be citizens, not contractors. The Director responded that she has engaged citizens in the community about

budget and citizens generally only express concerns about specific items they want, they do not think globally.

Commissioner Barbara Hair, Ward 8 wanted to know how the funds were distributed. Director Newland explained, that you start with their budget and work backwards, demographics of the ward, no matter what ward they live in. Everyone should have fair access to the service that is needed.

### **Councilmember Anita Bonds – Housing Trust**

Councilmember Anita Bonds spoke with the people in attendance about feedback on housing, the mayor has allocated \$200 million.

She asked for input from the Commission about what should be done with the funding?

Vice Chairwoman Carolyn Matthews suggested that things should be simplified to process. She asked if there was an inventory on how many people will be using the program? Councilmember Bonds would propose a strategy of sending out information.

Commissioner Barbara Lee stated that people do not want to come out and asked how do you get the information to them? Councilmember Bonds says that the agencies have a huge task of information, public grants and loans.

Commissioner Barbara Hair says that something should be done to help the landlords. Councilmember Bonds made mention of the ERAC Program, a tenant who is in a bad financial situation can get assistance from the government up to \$4,200 dollars.

Chairman Bobo said that two developers are looking to come to Ward 8, around the Popular Point Area.

Councilmember Bonds said that by 2025 there will be 36,000 new housing units, 12,000 would be for lower income.

Vice Chairwoman Matthews made mention that some of her constituents, drug dealers have taken over her apartment and sell drugs.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

Will be held until the next meeting.

### **V. Ward Report**

#### **Ward 1**

Commissioner Miranda attended a Sage Meeting at DC Center. She met with the former director of Vida Center, Mario Cristaldi, and mentioned that the center is not receiving enough funding to assist the seniors. There is still disparity for the LGBTQ Community and minority groups. Reimbursement of funds is slow.

## **Ward 8**

Councilmember Trayon White held a Spring Start Event, 500 people attended, the Office of the Attorney General had a booth to address senior exploitation.

## **VI. General Discussion**

Commissioner Hair told the Commission that she'd spoken with Michael Kirkwood, former DACL General Counsel, says hello to everyone. He is working in with the City of Atlanta and is doing 1:1 community service.

Chairman Bobo thanked Ex-Officio Member Veronica Longstreth for helping to quickly resolve an issue with one of the wellness centers.

## **VII. Public Comment**

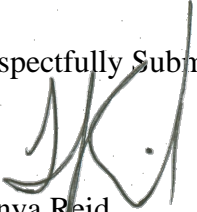
Heather Foote informed the Commission that the Age Friendly Transportation Committee is looking for input from seniors with traffic light timing.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14pm

These minutes were recorded by Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager, DC Department of Aging and Community Living, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on May 22, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Reid  
Administrative Support Manager  
DC Department of Aging and Community Living