

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

Attendance

Commissioners: Guleford Bobo, Chairman; Vice Chair Carolyn Matthews, John Giacomini, Barbara Hair, Jo Anne Hersh, Barbara Lee, Grace Lewis, Mary Taylor

Ex-Officio Members: David Quick (DCPL); Vivian Guerra (DDOT); Veronica Longstreth (DOH); Hector Rodriguez (DC Council)

Members of the Public: Buddy Moore (former Commissioner), Vanessa Gerideau (DPR), Tiffany Oscar, Joelle Purdy, Sharada Strasmore (DDOT), Irene Kang (DC Council), George Arnstein (former Commissioner), Delano Hunter (DPR)

Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) Staff Present: Garret King, Chief of Staff, Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager, Lance Holt, Staff Assistant

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 September 25, meeting were reviewed and approved without correction.

III. Presentation(s)

a. Department of Aging and Community Living Update

Chief of Staff Garret King mentioned that DACL is rolling out the agency's new brand. As part of the rollout the agency had townhall meetings at all of the wellness centers, discussing the agency's new brand and look. Seniors received some of new "swag", the Seabury vehicles has been rebranded with DACL's new logo.

Effective October 1st, Adult Protective Services (APS) was transferred to DACL. Clinical Director Heather Stowe is currently overseeing the team. The team is still housed at DHS, but hopefully by spring 2020 they will move to 500 K Street, after the build out is completed.

Refresher for all the Senior Wellness Centers should be done by December except for Congress Heights and Model Cities, as they will be having expansion. The expansions are scheduled to be completed by spring 2020; however, that may change once construction begins.

b. Dockless Scooter Parking DDOT

DDOT's Accessibility and Inclusion Coordinator Vivian Guerra and Shared Micromobility planner Sharad Strasmore gave a presentation on the dockless scooters addressing the safety concerns and shared a Public Service Announcement (PSA).

The idea of dockless scooters is to provide the District with more multi-mobile transportation options, encouraging visitors and residents to use options other than driving.

The PSA educated people on to what to do with the dockless scooters while riding, how to park them, rules of the road, etc.

Commissioner Hersh asked how many corral parking spots there for the scooters are, there are currently about 11 corral parking spots.

Vice Chairwoman Matthews brought up the issue about the scooters in the neighborhood just being parked anywhere, and not being picked up in timely fashion. The scooters often block sidewalks. Vivian responded that unused vehicles are picked up within 5 days; however, if they are mis-parked it should be picked up within 2 hours. If any are mis-parked residents can call 311 for a service request or residents can email dockless.mobility@dc.gov.

Commissioner JoAnne Hersh has been taking photos 6 months of the parking issues with scooters and bikes.

Chairman Bobo asked if there was a speed limit. The response was 10 mph.

Commissioner Barbara Lee asked who benefits from this. Vivian responded that the company receives the money from the user and the government receives a permit fee per vehicle. Any issues contact 311, any issues the commissioners put down in writing, so it will be brought to the attention of the DDOT Director, the Mayor and the Council.

c. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Director Delano Hunter highlighted some of DPR's FY19 accomplishments. DPR operates nearly 100 locations: 68 recreation centers; 33 aquatic facilities, 22 of which are outside facilities. They operate over 3600 programs across all wards. They manage: 112 athletic facilities; 28 gyms; and about 200 unique park spaces. DPR has a senior division and senior offerings through DPR's other divisions. IN FY19 there were 50 senior classes offered at pools, including senior specific classes at 21 of the outdoor pools. DPR has partnerships with UDC and YMCA to assist DPR with senior programming.

DPR's Senior Division is led by Cecily Mendie. She is a recreational professional, she went to school for recreation. She reports to Vanessa Gerideau. There are 2 dedicated facilities for seniors, Ft. Stevens and Theodore Hagans. There are 4 main events: Senior Olympics, Senior Picnic, Senior Cruise and Senior Fun Camp. The senior fun camp took about 75 seniors for 5 days to a camp in Scotland, MD. Seniors were able to fish, bike, arts and crafts. In FY20 DPR launched a new art program: "Young at Art" at 7 different locations.

Mayor Bowser invested money for Ft. Lincoln revitalization to demolish the school and turn it into comprehensive rec center and will have senior specific space. Theodore Hagan rec center will be demolished, but the pool will remain. There are thriving programs at the Therapeutic Recreation Center (TRC), the current facility will be demolished and rebuilt. It will be renamed the Joy Evans Center. It will be completed 18 months after the TRC is demolished.

Chairman Bobo asked about the commissioners having their meetings at certain recreation centers. Director Hunter said the Mayor has directed DPR to waive permit fees for all-daytime senior activities. There is a different permit to reserve spaces. Chairman Bobo requested to have someone from DPR to attend the monthly Commission meetings. Director Hunter designated Ms. Mendie and if she cannot attend Ms. Gerideau.

Commissioner had an issue with reserving bus trips to Baltimore. Director Hunter stated typically the radius is about 30 miles. They may be able to make exception for a Baltimore excursion.

Commissioner Hersh asked about where the TRC is located and how do seniors access it. Director Hunter informed the commission that the TRC is Ward 7 across from Fort Dupont Park. The TRC support programming for seniors and people with developmental disabilities. They have day programs and inclusive camps for young people with special needs. The inclusive camps are the anchor for the center. DACL's Deputy Director Aurora Delespin-Jones is working with DPR on senior programming for the TRC. The new facility will have a larger pool.

d. Property Tax Abatement Bill

Councilmember Anita Bonds' Chief of Staff Irene Kang gave information on the Property Tax Abatement Bill. Currently, Office of Tax and Revenue has a deferral program for seniors. This allow seniors in two different categories 70 years and older and 75 older to defer their taxes. The difference in categories is the interest rate. Councilmember Bonds introduced a bill to help the lowest income seniors, seniors at 20% and 40% of the area median income. Those seniors can get 80% and 90% off of their taxes. It went to Councilmember

Evans' committee, but it died last council period. This year to Councilmember Bonds is looking to introduce another bill. They do not have draft, yet.

Commissioner Lee asked if her children would be responsible for the taxes that were deferred. Irene responded that her children would be responsible for whatever taxes that were deferred between the time a person opts into the program and the time ownership of the property changed.

Commissioner Hersh asked if constituent support would be helpful at the hearing? Irene responded that the bill has not been introduced yet, but they will encourage Councilmember McDuffie to hold a hearing when the time comes. And if and when a hearing is held, she will let the Commission know.

IV. New Business

Commissioner Bobo mentioned that the November and December meetings will be rescheduled due to the holidays. The Commission decided on November 20th 1:00pm and December 18th 10:00am.

V. Committee Report

Governance: None

Transportation: None

Housing: None

Health and Wellness: DGS has updated the Wellness Centers. The centers are have gotten new roofs, carpet, and paint. The participants got to pick new colors.

Information and Education: None

VI. Ward Report

Ward 1: Vice Chair Matthews would like someone to come in and explain the lead pipe assistance program. There are a lot of variables to explain, detailed and it is confusing for seniors to decipher the program.

Ward 2: Commissioner Hersh met with West End GW Village, they are appreciated of DACL and their services.

Ward 3: Commissioner Giacomini has been in touch frequently with Palisades Village leadership and he is a liaison for Iona Senior services and 4 congregations.

Ward 4: Chairman Bobo thanked Comcast for the laptops they contributed to the seniors. Wards 4,7, & 8 had senior spa day. He thanked DPR for their help.

Ward 5: Commissioner Lee was concerned with crimes in her area. People have been getting robbed. The issue has been discussed at ANC meetings.

VII. Announcements

DCPL Ex-Officio member David Quick announced that the MLK Library will open up in one year, Lamond Riggs Library will open up in a year or two.

Hector Rodriguez mentioned that Councilmember Bonds has agreed to a DHCD Senior Housing Advisory Team, asking for volunteers.

Heather Foote announced that the Department for Hired Vehicles has suspended the shared ride program. If any sidewalk repairs are needed near the wellness centers or recreation centers, let her know and she will contact DDOT.

Chairman Bobo welcomed and thanked Former Ward 1 Commissioner, Buddy Moore, and former Ward 2 Commissioner, George Arnstein.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

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 November 20, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Tanya Reid', is written over the printed name.

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