

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Meeting Minutes for
Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

Attendance

Commissioners: Guleford Bobo, Chairman; Vice Chair Carolyn Matthews, Nancy Miranda, Barbara Hair, Jo Anne Hersh, Barbara Lee, Grace Lewis, Mary Taylor, Barbara Hair, Charles Hicks, Gloria J. Whitfield

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

Members of the Public: MacKenzie Matthews (DOEE), Joelle Purdy (Washington Home)

Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) Staff Present: Laura Newland, Director; Tanya Reid, Administrative Support Manager,

I. Call to Order

Guleford Bobo (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm with a moment of silence.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Commission's October 23rd meeting were reviewed and approved with correction. Vivian Guerra from DDOT corrected that the 5th paragraph of the dockless scooter section should state mis-parked scooters should be picked up within two hours not two days, and residents can call 311 for a service request and email dockless.mobility@dc.gov.

III. Presentation(s)

a. Department of Aging and Community Living Update

Administrative Support Manager Tanya Reid announced the Mayor's Annual Holiday is on December 19th at the DC Armory, DACL's Performance hearing is currently scheduled for February 25th and the Budget Hearing is scheduled for April 3rd. She encouraged the Commissioners to begin thinking about what Chairman Bobo and Vice Chairwoman Matthews should include in the Commissions testimony.

Commissioner Hicks stressed the importance of the hearings.

b. Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program (LPRAP)

Program Lead for the DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program, Mackenzie Matthews, discussed LPRAP. The program is through the Affordability and Efficiency division of

DOEE, the same division that does utility discounts and is responsible for LIHEAP. The program is considered an assistance program because DOEE can help fund lead pipe replacement for residents.

In FY 20, Mayor Bowser set aside \$2.8 million to address the District's lead pipe issues. \$1 million was set aside for when DC Water is doing capital improvements or emergency repairs and the surrounding houses need full lead replacements. Residents do not have to apply but they do have to agree to the replacement. DC Water can replace the lines in the street and the property at no cost to the owner; however, if a resident wants their lines changed outside of capital improvement or emergency repairs, they will have to pay for the cost.

The remaining \$1.8 million goes to properties with a partial lead pipe replacement. A partial lead pipe replacement means that a property has a completely lead line connecting the property to line in the street, and DC Water changed the line in the street to something other than lead. This mixed material increases the chance of lead entering the property. If the property has a partial lead line, the owner can receive 50% of the cost of replacement up to \$2,500. Additionally, some residents depending on household size and income receive 80% - 100% assistance.

Residents who received a mailer about the program from DC Water, received it because it is believed that the property is eligible. Residents can visit dcwater.com/leadmap to view the pipes under their property and see if their property is eligible. The map is not always accurate, but residence can call to identify discrepancies.

Residents can complete the application online or submit a paper application. In addition to the application, applicants will need to submit a photo ID, proof of property ownership, proof of income is optional (those owner's will only be considered to receive assistance with 50% of cost), a recent DC Water bill, quote for the replacement of the lead pipe. The quote comes from a contractor of the homeowner's choosing.

After the application is received it goes through two simultaneous stages of review. DOEE will review the application for income verification and application completeness. If anything is missing or illegible, DOEE will reach out to retrieve the needed information. DC Water will review the quote to ensure the quote makes sense for the property. If DC Water has questions, they will contact the resident. Once fully approved, the resident, contractor, and DC Water will receive the same benefit confirmation letter. The letter will outline the amount the District will pay and next steps for the homeowner and the contractor.

Commissioner Hicks asked if DOEE can recommend contractors. Ms. McKenzie stated that the legislation allows for DC Water to give out a list of contractors; however, currently does not exist.

Vice Chairwoman Matthews indicated that the process is difficult and asked about seniors who need assistance with the process. Ms. McKenzie indicated that communication and flexibility for anyone having difficulty with the application. The resident can call her for assistance. Home visits have been done for other programs to help with application or to verify if denials were appropriate.

Chairman Bobo asked if it was the homeowner's income or the household. Ms. McKenzie said it was the household's income.

Commissioner Miranda asked when the money was released, how much has been used, and after it has been used will it be renewed. Ms. McKenzie stated Mayor Bowser signed the legislation and it became effective in March 2019 and the money was released on October 1, 2019. For the \$1.8 million, four households have been approved the partial replacements, she did not know the amount. For the \$1 million capital improvements, a project that was completed on Franklin Street allowed 33 households to receive complete lead pipe replacement at zero cost to them.

Commissioners Hicks and Hersh asked about safeguards against scammers. Ms. McKenzie stated one safeguard is DC Water reviewing the quotes, DCRA also comes out to check the work after it is completed. She also encouraged the Commission to come to the hearing on December 10th to put the concerns on record.

IV. New Business

V. Committee Report

Governance: None

Transportation: None

Housing: None

Health and Wellness: Chairman Bobo has been encouraging people to attend the wellness centers; however, some people are encountering bullying issues.

Information and Education: None

VI. Ward Report

Ward 1: Chairman Bobo announced that the senior Thanksgiving luncheon will be on November 25th. Commissioner Miranda met with Peter Rankin of AARP, he asked for assistance getting information to seniors. Also, Martha Ramirez would like to have a roundtable with the Commission to discuss how to ease Medicaid enrollment.

Ward 7: Chairman Bobo announced the Thanksgiving luncheon will be November 21st.

VII. Announcements

Chairman Bobo announced AARP had a forum on November 19th for senior apartment dwellers to bring their taxes from the past three years to get tax credits for housing. Vice Chairwoman Matthews stated that falls under Schedule H. The first time, residents can back 3 years.

Chairman Bobo reminded the Commission that the primary objective for the first quarter was housing. He encouraged the Commissioners to look at the website www.rootstorooftdc.com to a list of housing programs available. Commissioner Miranda liked the website, it was clear and easy to read. Ms. McKenzie also informed the Commission about an initiative through the LAB in the City Administrator's office called Front Door.

Vice Chairwoman Matthews stated a lot of the information about the programs are made available to the public, but sometimes it can be intimidating. She indicated something like a directory would be helpful. Commissioner Hicks agreed and thought churches may be a good way to reach people. Chairman Bobo stated DACL's Alice Thompson goes out to churches and has fairs, but it generally on Saturdays. Hector Rodriguez liked the idea of a housing directory that indicates what the program is, who is in charge, etc., and he volunteered to take the information back to Councilmember Bonds.

Mr. Rodriguez also announced that Councilmember Bonds introduced a bill to extend rent control. One hundred-thirty-one people signed up for the hearings. The bill is currently in committee for markup. The extension is from 2020 to 2030. Chairman Bobo asked what the cap was for seniors. Mr. Rodriguez said he'd have to get that information for him. Commissioner Hair stated tenants needed programs to teach them how to pay rent, how to take care of the property, etc. She believes most programs benefit the tenants but not many for the landlords.

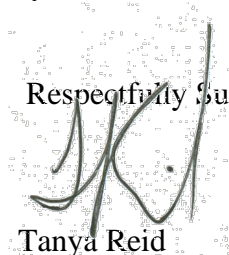
Vivian Guerra announced that DDOT is having open houses through the city to share information on safety, transportation and transportation planning projects. The next one will be December 7th in Ward 4.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

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 January 22, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TR', is written over a faint, dotted grid background.

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