

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging  
Minutes of January 30, 2014 Meeting**

**Commissioners Present:**

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Jaqueline Arguelles; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Charles Hicks; Grace Lewis; Samuel McCoy; Carolyn Nicholas; Josue Salmeron; Ronald Swanda; Brenda Williams; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

**DCOA Staff Present:**

Gail Kohn; Darryl Jackson; Deborah Royster; Camile Williams

**Guests Present:**

Councilmember Anita Bonds; Darryl Gorman; Sue Barnes; Grayton; Joseph Harris; Brittany Madison.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:15 a.m., January 30, 2014 at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

**Inspiration**

Chairperson Thomas provided the inspirational message, “Each Day Is A Gift.”

**Swearing in of New Commissioners**

Darryl Gorman, Executive Director, Office of Boards and Commissions, swore in Ms. Carolyn D. Nicholas and Ms. Constance Woody as members of the Commission on Aging.

**Presentations by Guest Speakers**

Chairperson Thomas introduced Councilmember Anita Bonds discussed pending legislation that she has sponsored to eliminate property taxes for persons 75 years of age and older with less than \$60,000 in annual income, and who have lived in their homes for at least 15 years. She also discussed the need for more affordable housing in the District of Columbia, and the need to address poverty issues. She commended the members of the Commission on Aging for their commitment to these issues, and also encouraged them to champion opportunities to mentor youth in the District of Columbia.

Gail Kohn, Coordinator, D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative, provided an update on the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative. She emphasized that the objective of the city-wide initiative is to transform the District of Columbia in a manner that makes it easier for older people to be included. She discussed the “block by block walk through” of the District of Columbia that is scheduled to occur in March 2014 for the purpose of structured data collection. She encouraged the members of the Commission to participate in this effort by walking their own blocks and also encouraging their neighbors to participate in this initiative.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The members of the Commission on Aging approved the Agenda (attached), and also approved the minutes of the November 27, 2013 (attached) with corrections noted.

### **DCOA Update**

Ms. Royster reported that DCOA’s agency performance hearings are scheduled on Tuesday, February 25, 2014, and that all members of the Commission on Aging are encouraged to attend this hearing. Ms. Royster also reported that the DCOA Elder Abuse Prevention Committee will sponsor training on the “Money Smart for Older Adults” consumer education module, which is designed to educate seniors and caregivers on the prevention of financial exploitation.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Governance:** Commissioner McCoy reported that legislation to curb harmful practices in the real property tax sales process remains pending before the Council of the District of Columbia.
- **Health and Wellness:** Commissioner Swanda requested a copy of the DCOA white paper on senior wellness centers, and he asked Commissioner Woody to participate in reviewing and commenting on this document by the Commission on Aging.

### **Ward Reports**

- **Ward 1:** Commissioner Salmeron reported on his activities in Ward 1. Commissioner Arguelles reported that DCOA programs and services are progressing well and without complaints.
- **Ward 4:** Commissioner McCoy reported that a DCOA Town Hall meeting was recently held at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, and that this meeting was productive and well received by those present.

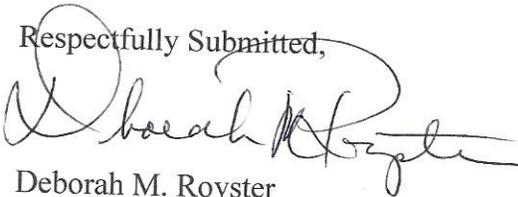
- **Ward 5:** Chairperson Thomas reported that the Ward 5 mini-commission has been formed and is active.
- **Ward 6:** Commissioner Swanda reported that the Ward 6 mini-commission will meet soon. Commissioner Colodny reported on issues in his neighborhood.
- **Ward 7:** Commissioner Woody reported that there are customer complaints at the Ward 7 Senior Wellness Center pertaining to the inability to obtain printer repairs.
- **Ward 8:** Commissioner Hair reported on certain concerns about transportation services in Ward 8. She stated that, according to the lead agency (Family Matters), transportation services for medical appointments cannot be provided to locations outside of the Beltway.

**Other Matters** Chairperson Thomas reported that Mrs. Virginia Williams, mother of former Mayor Anthony Williams, recently passed. She also reported that Councilmember Marion Barry has been hospitalized. Chairperson Thomas also noted that Courtney Williams recently retired from DCOA and stated that the members of the Commission would like to be informed of events celebrating Mr. Williams' retirement.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the January 30, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Deborah M. Royster, General Counsel, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on May 28, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
 Deborah M. Royster  
 General Counsel  
 District of Columbia Office on Aging