

**District of Columbia Commission on Aging**  
**Minutes of December 16, 2015 Meeting**

**Commissioners Present**

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Ron Swanda, Vice Chairperson; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby; Jacqueline Arguelles; Barbara Hair; Don Colodny; Charles Hicks; Samuel McCoy; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody; Carolyn Nicholas; Janet Heisse

**DCOA Staff Present**

Laura Newland; Garret King; Antonette Dozier

**Guests Present**

Joe Harris, Ward 5 mini-commission; Sue Barnes, Ward 5 mini-commission; Sheena Jaffer, Assistive Technology Program; Vivian Grayton, Seabury Ward 5; Norma Hardie, Seabury Ward 5; Lisa Jacobson, Dignity Memorial; Kate Lewis; Sadaf Ahmad, Alzheimer's Association; Deborah Royster, CEO of Seabury; Dawn Quattlebaum, Seabury; Joe Resch, Former Seabury CEO; Lester Wynn, Seabury Connector; Dennis King, Seabury

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging (“the Commission”) at 10:14 a.m., December 16, 2015 at Seabury Resources for Aging, 6031 Kansas Avenue, NW.

**Inspiration**

Chairperson Thomas provided the inspirational quote by John Wesley, “Do all the good you can; by all the means you can; in all the ways you can; in all the places you can; at all the times you can; to all the people you can; as long as ever you can.”

**DCOA Update**

Acting Executive Director Newland gave an update on DCOA. She thanked everyone, including DCOA staff, for their support. She informed the Commissioners about the upcoming senior roundtable on December 17, 2015 with Councilmember Bonds. She updated the commission on two programs: Safe at Home and Benefits Checkup®. She asked for the Commissions help to set up small groups to have a conversation about the agency and hear feedback from the community. Director Newland discussed conducting a needs assessment; the last one was completed in 2012.

## **Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2015 Meeting of the Commission on Aging**

The minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging were approved by the members of the Commission on Aging without correction.

### **Seabury Resources for Aging**

Kate Lewis, Chief Advancement Officer, gave an overview of Seabury Resources for Aging. The non-profit organization is in its 91<sup>st</sup> year of operation. Its mission is to provide service and housing options, so that older adults can age with dignity. Seabury runs Seabury Connector, ADRCs in Wards 5 and 6, Citywide Senior Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and three housing communities. They have over 4,000 volunteers, the majority work with their Age-in-Place program. Annually Seabury serves over 15,000 older adults and family caregivers.

An extensive conversation about Seabury's partnership with DCOA ensued.

Deborah Royster, Seabury's new CEO, joined the meeting and introduced other Seabury staff members.

### **Committee Reports**

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation: Commissioner Nicholas gave an overview of B21-0326 pending legislation regarding Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation. She also discussed the hearing on Councilmember Anita Bonds' bill to criminalize financial exploitation caused by undue influence. Several people testified at the hearing including Commissioners Nicholas, Thomas, and Heisse. She also discussed the testimony from the Public Defender Service that rejected the bill.

Commissioner McCoy moved to have the Commission endorse Bill 21-0326 by writing a letter asking the City Council to support it. Commissioner Arguelles seconded.

Health and Wellness Committee: Vice Chairman Swanda asked the group to direct him to anyone that currently resides in a nursing home and would like to move. He'd like to talk with them to understand their situation. He also discussed the high cost of prescription drugs and the new cost sharing system used to pay for the prescription, this new system leaves Hepatitis, HIV/AIDs, and other patients paying high prices for cost. The example given was \$1500 monthly.

## Ward Reports

Commissioner Heisse informed the group that East of Rock Creek village will open January 5, 2016. The village serves upper NW. She asked the commission to use their influence to urge people to volunteer or become members.

Commissioner Hair informed the commission that Ward 8 senior wellness center had a new director.

Chairwoman Thomas had guests introduce themselves.

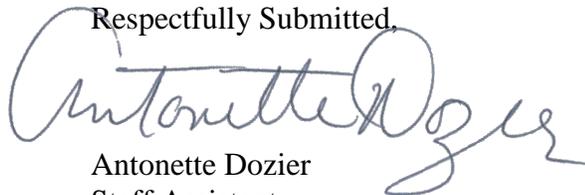
- Sheena Jaffer (Assistive Technology Program)
  - The program has 4 components: Demonstration and Resource Center, caters to seniors and people living with disabilities; device loan program, allows people to test devices; equipment recycling, allows people with income of \$35,000 or less to get used equipment, i.e. wheelchairs, computers for free; and financial loan program, allows people to get a loan to purchase assistive technology.
  
- Sadaf Ahmad (Alzheimer's Association)
  - House and Senate approved \$350,000,000 for Alzheimer's research. She would like to establish a Dementia Taskforce.

## Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the December 16, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Antonette Dozier, Staff Assistant, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on February 24, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,



Antonette Dozier  
Staff Assistant  
District of Columbia Office on Aging