

District of Columbia Commission on Aging
Minutes of November 19, 2014 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; Ronald Swanda, Vice Chairperson; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Janet Heisse ; Grace Lewis; Samuel McCoy; Carolyn Nicholas; Brenda Williams; Nathaniel Wilson

DCOA Staff Present:

Dr. John M. Thompson; Antonette Dozier; Darrell Jackson; Garret King; Gail Kohn; Tanya Reid; Deborah Royster; Camile Williams

Guests Present: Barbara Klein, resident of Ward 3; Joe Harris, Ward 5 Mini-Commission; Vivian Grayton, Seabury Resources for Aging.

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., on November 19, 2014, at 500 K St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Inspiration and Introductions

Chairperson Thomas offered thanks and appreciation to everyone to be together for the Thanksgiving holiday season, and she asked for blessings and strength for the Commission on Aging in its efforts to serve seniors in Washington, D.C.

Chairperson Thomas introduced and congratulated Ms. Vivian Grayton on her recent promotion to the position of Director, Ward 5, of Seabury Resources for Aging.

Approval of Minutes of October 22, Meeting of the Commission on Aging

The minutes of the October 22, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging were unanimously approved by the members of the Commission on Aging with one change to clarify that the Commission on Aging passed a motion rather than a resolution in support of continued implementation of the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative.

DCOA Update

Dr. Thompson provided an update on key activities of the Office on Aging. He discussed a projected budget shortfall in the District of Columbia and the need to preserve DCOA's programs and services. He also reported that DCOA recently received funding grant funding from the Administration for Community Living to focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dr. Thompson also reminded the members of the Commission on Aging of the December 10, 2014 Annual Mayor's Senior Holiday Celebration and encouraged everyone to participate. A brief period of questions and answers followed.

D.C. Age Friendly City Update

Ms. Kohn reported that the Age Friendly D.C. task force recently approved goals and objectives for submission to Mayor Vincent Gray for final approval, and that efforts are underway to write the strategic plan. After the strategic plan is finalized and released, it will be presented at community meetings for public comment. Ms. Kohn also reported that the District of Columbia is among six (6) finalists of cities that will be selected by the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide metrics for age friendly cities to compare relative performance on age-friendly characteristics.

Ms. Kohn also reported on DCOA's partnership with DC Serve for snow removal for seniors, and that DCOA and HSEMA are working together to identify vulnerable persons who can benefit from participating in Smart 911. She also reported that the National Coalition on Creative Aging is conducting a survey on older persons and creativity, and that the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative has created a business initiative to identify age-friendly businesses in the District of Columbia.

Committee Reports

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Prevention

The members of the Commission on Aging discussed pending legislation before the Council of the District of Columbia on elder abuse and neglect issues. The Commission voted favorably (9 yes votes, and 1 abstention) to send a message to Councilmember Tommy Wells to mark-up bill 20-107 to criminalize financial exploitation by persons with undue influence. The members of the Commission on Aging also voted unanimously to approve the draft charter of the Committee on Elder abuse and Financial Exploitation Prevention.

Governance

See discussion above.

Other Matters

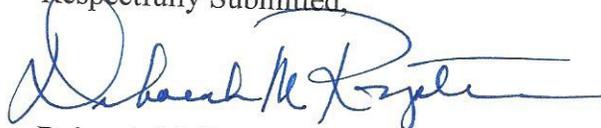
The members of the Commission on Aging agreed to invite representatives of the office of the People's Counsel to a future meeting of the Commission on Aging to discuss energy conservation issues, and Commissioner Nicholas agree to take the lead in organizing this presentation.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the November 19, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:05 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 December 17, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,



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