

**Alexandria Commission on Aging Minutes
February 11, 2016**

Members Present: Carol Downs, Bob Eiffert , Jane King, Mary Lee Anderson, Sharon Dantzig, Alan Dinsmore, Joan Dodaro, Christine Fulgencio, Elisabeth Palmer Johnson, David Kaplan, Pat Killeen, Michael Kreps, Jim Lindsay, Lois Lipson, Jan Macidull, Mary Parker, Del Pepper, Babs Waters

Members Excused: Charles Bailey, Cedar Dvorin, Anestacia Graham Evans

Liaisons Present: Vanessa Greene, Senior Center @ Charles Houston; Kathryn Toohey, St. Martins Senior Center; Margaret Orlando, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Darrell Wesley, Alexandria Adult Day Services Center; Mitch Opalski, Arlington Commission on Aging; Ian Torrance, Police Department

Staff Members Present: Mark Jinks, City Manager; Morgan Routt, Office of Management and budget; Terri Lynch and Debbie Ludington, Division of Aging and Adult Services

Guests Present: Lori Young, Goodwin House

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes of the January 14, 2015 approved.

Introduction of new member: Sharon Dantzig was welcomed.

Presentation by Mark Jinks, City Manager, and Morgan Routt, Director of Management and Budget: also so attachment.

Mary Lee Anderson introduced Mark, and thanked him for checking on the delivery of Meals on Wheels following the major snow storm in January.

Mark said that the city's departments submit their budgets in December. The budget proposal, following careful scrutiny by the budget and city manager staffs, is provided to the City Council in February. **Master plans are taken into account, and capital investments are covered in a ten-year plan.**

The attachment shows how city revenues cover the budget. Mark stated that 500 programs exist, but that we don't need to keep doing some things. Departments were told to cut their budgets by 5 percent last summer. Some staff positions will be cut, some added.

Mark noted that the city manager proposes, the City Council disposes. Ten work sessions are scheduled for Council. For any questions they ask, staff must respond with budget memos. If

members choose to add to the budget, they must suggest equivalent cuts. The budget is adopted in May.

Recommendations from City Manager Re: Commission Activity and Budget

- The Commission should weigh in early – in summer.
- It's extremely frustrating to be late in the game.
- The Commission must have great arguments.
- It is best to weigh in before the end of March. (Add-delete is in April.)

Mark noted that the proffer bill in the Virginia General Assembly was defeated.

He also noted that he was asked to determine the tax rate, Alexandria has tripled the budget for road repairs in recent years, and City Hall needs extensive rehabilitation.

Liaison Reports

Commission for Women: Elisabeth noted that the 36th Annual Salute to Women Dinner will be held on March 28 at 6 p.m. at the Patent and Trademark Center.

Commission on Persons with Disabilities: See attached. Mary noted the awards of the Commission.

Senior Center @ Charles Houston: See attached. Vanessa noted that Black History Month will be celebrated on February 26 at 11 a.m. and I Heart Seniors breakfast program will be the last Friday of every month.

She also said that the Diversity Committee meeting will be held on February 25 at Safeway.

Senior Services of Alexandria: Mary Lee reported that the Senior Speaker Series on dementia was very successful.

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities: Margaret reported that a new Power Up is available

Committee Updates:

Housing: Jan noted that the Housing Committee will meet on 5:30, February 22, at the First Baptist Church.

Advocacy and Legislation: Bob reported that the committee (and others who are interested) will meet on February 25 at 10 a.m at DAAS offices.

Communications/Outreach: Jim asked the Commission to check out the plans for the new website.

Strategic Planning: Jane reported that Kate Garvey and Carol Layer have approved the application for Alexandria as an AARP/WHO Age-Friendly Community.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Resources for Residential Accessibility Improvements

ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF HOUSING
PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION DIVISION



Resources for Homeowners

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Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP)

- 0% interest, 99-year deferred payment loan
- Loan amount up to \$135,000 for non-condo units and \$75,000 for condos
- Funds may be used for
 - Accessibility modifications
 - Addressing code violations
 - Lead-based paint hazards
 - Energy efficiency improvements



Resources for Homeowners

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Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (cont.)

- Program is equity-based – total liens may not exceed 90% of property value
- City provides architectural services at no cost to homeowner
- Homeowner selects contractor based on bids

Resources for Homeowners

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Rebuilding Together Alexandria (RTA)

- RTA provides home improvements to low-income City homeowners
- Uses volunteer labor to provide repairs at no cost to the homeowner (no equity requirement)
- RTA can provide a range of improvements from deferred maintenance to accessibility modifications
- City supports RTA through an annual allocation of Housing Trust Fund monies



Resources for Homeowners

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Virginia Livable Homes Tax Credit

- Administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Tax credit of up to \$5,000
 - Purchase of new accessible residence OR
 - Retrofitting existing homes (50% of costs)



Resources for Homeowners

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Virginia Livable Homes Tax Credit (cont.)

- Applications due by February 28 for work completed in the prior tax year
- Cannot receive credit if improvements were funded using most federal, state and local programs
- Program has been underfunded for past two cycles

More info: <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/LHTC>

Resources for Renters

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Federal Fair Housing Act, as amended in 1988

- Requires landlords to allow tenants with disabilities to make reasonable access-related modifications to their private living space and common use spaces. The landlord is not required to pay for the changes.
- Requires that new multifamily housing with four or more units be designed and built to allow access for persons with disabilities. This includes accessible common use areas, doors that are wide enough for wheelchairs, kitchens and bathrooms that allow a person using a wheelchair to maneuver, and other adaptable features within the units.

Resources for Renters

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City of Alexandria Rental Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP)

- Provides grants of up to \$50,000 to renter households for substantial accessibility modifications
- At least one member of household must have a physical disability
- Consent of landlord is required
- City seeks landlord agreement to make unit available to future tenants with accessibility needs

Resources for Renters

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- **Examples of RAMP-funded modifications**
 - Widened doorways
 - Interior and exterior wheelchair ramps/re-grading
 - Roll-in showers
 - Kitchen modifications (i.e. roll under sink, cabinet lowering)



Resources for Renters

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City of Alexandria Mini-RAMP Program

- Funded through the City's Housing Trust Fund
- Provides simple accessibility modifications
 - Installation of grab bars, shower safety features
- Repairs up to \$1,500
- Staff coordinates with renter, landlord, and contractor

Resources for Renters

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Rental Unit Accessibility Modification Program (RUAM)

- Funded by the Virginia Housing Development Authority
- Funds simple modifications of up to \$2,800
- Office of Housing serves as Community Agent on behalf of VHDA
- Staff coordinates between renter, landlord, contractor, and VHDA



HUD Income Limits

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Department of Housing and Urban Development 2015 Income Limits

Household Size	Income Maximum
1 person	\$47,600
2 person	\$54,400
3 person	\$61,200
4 person	\$68,000
5 person	\$73,450
6 person	\$78,900

Resources for Renters

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Virginia Housing Search

- Provides one stop resource to locate accessible rental units
- Allows home seekers to search apartments by locality and by specific accessible features



Additional Information

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ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING, FEB. 10, 2016

REPORT FROM: Mary H. Parker, ACPD Liaison

THE FEBRUARY 10 ACPD meeting received a presentation from Brandi Collins, Housing Program Specialist about loans and other programs to assist residents with accessible improvements for existing housing. (See Attached). The Office of Housing has a new brochure, prepared by Ms. Collins that explains these programs, which provide benefits for elderly and disabled homeowners and renters.

ACPD Chair, Mollie Danforth engaged Commission members in a discussion of their experiences in dealing with the 22-inch snowstorm visited on the City at the end of January. A major discussion was the lack of snow clearance from sidewalks and particularly corner ramps, which provide access to from sidewalks to street crossings for individuals with disabilities, as well as other residents.

Doug Goist, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Transportation Committee discussed his experience in visiting the new metro/bus arrangements in the Route One/Potomac Yard area. He expresses some concerns about the proximity of mid-street shelters to traffic flow.

Mary H Parker, PhD