

COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Sept. 28, 2017

Members Present	Members Absent
Noelle Heyman	Suzanne Ackerman
Judith Peres	Barbara Brubeck
Richard Jourdenais	Shenita Freeman
John Honig	Hillery Tumba
Stephanie Edelstein	Rashid Makhdoom
Jerry Morenoff	
Alan Kaplan	Liaisons
T. Ryan Wilson	Austin Heyman, Senior Fellow Office of Community Partnerships
Jack Sprague	Leslie Marks, Senior Fellow Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs
Nanine Meiklejohn	Marcia Pruzan, Senior Fellow Age Friendly Montgomery
Phyllis Rand	Stephanie Moore, Housing Opportunities Commission
Mort Faller	
Monica Schaeffer	
Neal Brown	Alumni Members
Mary Petrizzo	Morton A. Davis
Revathi Vikram	Charles Kauffman
Isabelle Schoenfeld	
Amoke Alakoye	
Karen Maricheau	Guests
Sue Guenther	Moline Jackson, Montgomery Parks and Planning
David Denton	Faisal Khan, Dept. of Transportation
Syed Yusuf	Denise Isreal, Dept. of Transportation
	James Campbell, Commission of Veterans Affairs
	Staff
	Odile Brunetto, Dept. of Health & Human Services
	Tremayne Jones, Dept. of Health & Human Services
	Pazit Aviv, Dept. of Health & Human Services

Call to order—Chair, Noelle Heyman called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Welcome and Introductions—Noelle welcomed all attendees. Staff and guests introduced themselves.

Action—Approval of May 2017 full Commission minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Revathi Vikram reported the COA account balance is \$ 6,130.82.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee- Judith Peres, Alan Kaplan and Richard Jourdenais have been appointed by the COA chair as the new members of the Nominating Committee. They will work together to identify a new COA Chair, new first Chair, new Secretary and a new Budget Financial Advisor for 2018.

Summer Study Report and Adopting Recommendations-Barbara Brubeck, Nanine Meiklejohn and Monica Schaeffer co-chaired the 2017 summer study titled: Preserving and Expanding Affordable Rental Housing in Montgomery County and its Impact on Seniors. Monica thanked those who participated in the summer study. The study was conducted to address the issues Montgomery County continue to experience with the growing shortage of affordable rental housing in the county. This shortage has a critical negative impact on older residents of Montgomery County who are finding it increasingly difficult to age-in-place in their homes and communities.

The summer study was divided into three sessions with the first session focusing on *Barriers/Opportunities to Expanding Affordable Senior Rental Housing*. The second session focused on *Barriers/Opportunities to Preserving Affordable Senior Rental Housing* and the third and final session focused on *Develop Recommendations*. The recommendations for the summer study session were meeting the demands of affordable senior rental requires that new development/construction go hand in hand with preservation strategies. In addition, the 2017 Rental Housing Study by RKG Associates found that the existing housing stock currently provided the largest supply of affordable rental housing for lower-income households, making preservation of these units an important component of an affordable housing strategy designed to address the current imbalance in the county's rental housing market. More information on the 2017 Summer Study can be found on the COA webpage: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/COA/COASummerStudies.html> The Public Policy committee will meet jointly with summer study members to finalize the recommendations.

FY19 County Budget Process— Dr. Odile Brunetto discussed the current budget process. Montgomery County Government is currently drafting the FY19 budget which will begin July 1st. The COA is being asked about their recommendations for FY19. HHS will look at their budget and they will either propose the same budget or a lower budget pending OMB guidelines. The recommendations will go to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in December and OMB will look over the recommendations and will then forward it to County Executive. Mr. Leggett will publish the proposed budget by March 15th of 2018. The County approved budget will be available in May 2018. Once the proposed county budget has been published in March the commissioners will begin to meet with County Council members in April to discuss the budget.

On October 18th at 8:30 a.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will hold a discussion with Chairs of Health and Human Services Advisory Boards, Committees, and Commissions on policy priorities. Noelle will attend the roundtable on behalf of the COA to discuss and identify the top policy priorities for the COA. The joint HHS Commission agreed the top priority will be maintaining the security safety net and access to all HHS services in that safety net.

Discussion of FY19 COA priorities due to Chair of HHS Committee of County Council— Dr. Brunetto discussed the priority recommendations for the protection and support for vulnerable seniors, and the preservation and expansion of affordable rental housing options for seniors. Commission on Aging continues to prioritize the need for affordable housing options for seniors. The 2017 Summer Study, "Preserving and Expanding Affordable Rental Housing in Montgomery County and its Impact on Seniors," includes several recommendations in this area, including consideration for a carve out in the low-income Housing Tax Credit Program, an increase for the County Housing Initiative Fund and exploring ways to increase age friendly features for MPDU.

The following are the priority recommendations:

- Public Guardianship Program Staffing
- State's Attorney's Office Staffing
- Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Staffing
- Respite Care Services Provider Compensation
- Senior Care Plus/Early State Memory Loss Pilot Program
- Expanding Affordable Senior Housing

The Commission on Aging members voted on and approved the priorities unanimously.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Stephanie discussed the Legislative Breakfast that will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Holiday Park Senior Center located at 3950 Ferrara Drive in Wheaton, Maryland. The Legislative Breakfast is a meeting held between the Commission on Aging and the County Delegation where the COA presents their priorities on the state issues and in return the Delegation presents their priorities to the Commission on Aging. Following the Legislative Breakfast the full commission will hold their November COA meeting.

Stephanie informed the COA that the bylaws were approved by the County Attorney and they are no longer operating under the 1990 bylaws. Stephanie also informed the COA that the bylaws must remain in the perimeter of the County code that cannot be changed. The County attorney approved the draft of the COA bylaws and made changes to the current bylaws which are:

- The old bylaws had two Vice-Chairs; the new bylaws states that only one Vice-chair is needed
- There will no longer be a Treasurer the position will now be called a Budget and Finance Officer.

New Business- Odile spoke about the Age Friendly Montgomery County Three Year Strategic Plan that was submitted to AARP for their review.

Meeting adjourned at noon
Respectfully submitted