

**Commission on Aging
Aging in Place Committee
Meeting Notes
April 12, 2016
9:30-11:30am, 7300 Calhoun Plac3**

Commission members: Miriam Kelty, Noelle Heyman, Isabelle Schoenfeld, Chuck Kauffman

Staff: Pazit Aviv

Guests: Austin Heyman, Beth Shapiro, Laura Fenves, Shawn Brennan, Lou Tenenbaum, Sarah Gotbaum, Marsha Weber

Topic	Discussion Points	Suggestions and Action Items
<p>9:00am Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>Miriam called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves to one another.</p>	
<p>9:10am-10:45am Transportation Services Network Update</p>	<p>Shawn Brennan presented a Transportation Services Network update. She indicated that Uber and Lyft view themselves as IT companies, as opposed to transportation companies. Doing so helps them circumvent transportation regulations and otherwise applicable local laws. Uber and Lyft are accessible only through an app on a smart phone used to reserve a ride. Taxis, though operating under a very different business model, are included in the Network. While the Network increases transportation options for county residents, providers lack the numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles needed to transport</p>	<p>Talk with MCDOT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the status of the reimbursements • Who will manage the reimbursements • Ensure reimbursements from the fund will be used to increase accessible transportation.

older and disabled residents. Providers claim the expense of retrofitting vehicles is too high and the cost of purchasing new wheelchair accessible vehicles is prohibitive.

To help offset these costs and encourage Network Transportation Services providers to move to greater accessibility the County Council put forth and approved a bill (33-15) to create a Transportation Services Fund. The bill requires that Transportation Network Service providers collect a 25 cent surcharge on every ride originating in Montgomery in accordance with the State Public Utilities Code. Monies are then to be disbursed back to the County on a quarterly basis and used to incentivize Transportation Services Network providers to purchase or retrofit vehicles and train drivers to accommodate the elderly and disabled. As a Committee we are concerned about the status of those monies, the disbursement and management of those funds and the plans or processes for incentivizing Transportation Services Network providers and determining the status of cab upgrades.

WMATA policies and MetroAccess was also discussed. The County subsidizes each trip at \$51. MetroAccess is a shared ride provider and does not provide great service. AbilitiesRide is a WAMTA proposal that would offer rides for the elderly or disabled with same day reservations, no shared vehicles. Use of a smart phone would be required to reserve rides and there would be no call center to address concerns or questions. The

	Committee thought this proposal “elitist”, though helpful for those with the financial and technological means to use the service.	
10:45am-11:20am Summer Study Ideas	<p>Miriam then introduced the topic of Summer Studies and asked for ideas. Commissioners suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with the National Association of Transportation Providers, survey RideShare and talk with other communities with successful accessible transportation networks to learn about best practices. • The Summit on Aging identified affordable living as an issue—taxes, in particular. What can be done to address that issue (meanwhile, the Council is considering a tax deferral bill and the CE has reduced its tax increase proposal in light of State requirements for the Wynne case repayments). • Diversity: community needs assessment and issues contributing to those needs. • Landlord/Tenant relations, affordable housing/rent. 	
11:20am-11:30am Age-Friendly Update	There was brief discussion of progress toward age-friendly community. Chuck suggested that we need a Sub-Cabinet	

11:30am	Work Group to develop a strategic plan and that there should be representation on it from among CoA members. Meeting adjourned	
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