



BALTIMORE CITY COMMISSION ON AGING

MEETING MINUTES

Title	COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING		
Date	January 21, 2020	Meeting Time	9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Chairpersons	Barbara "Reba" Cornman Betsy Simon	Meeting Location	City Hall 100 Holliday St

Attendees:

COMMISSIONERS	Status	STAFF	Status
Allan Jensen, M.D.	√	Heang Tan	√
Elizabeth Tanner, Ph.D.	√	Omar McBee	√
Barbara 'Reba' Cornman, Co-Chair	√	Jim Macgill	√
Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins	√	Chrystle Samuels	-
Barbara C. Brody	√	Jose Jimenez	-
Lloyd H. Buckner	-	Lori Fagan	-
Bishop Dr. J. L. Carter	-	Beverly Harris	-
Susan Francis, Esquire	√	Nicole Foster	√
W. Daniel Hale, Ph.D.	-		
Elizabeth F. Johnson	√		
Rev. Lee Michaels	-		
Hon Sharon Middleton, Councilwoman	√		
Tracey Murray, DNP	-	EX-OFFICIOS	
David L. Roth, Ph.D.	-	Michael Braverman	-
Betsy Simon, Co-Chair	√	Michael S. Harrison	-
Sarah Matthews	√	Randi Walters, PhD	-
Thomas Cudjoe, M.D.	-	Reginald Moore	-
Rev. Lee Michaels	-	Chris Ryer	-
		Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.	-
INVITED GUESTS		REPRESENTATIVES	
Pamela Paige	-	Sean Bloodsworth, DSS	-
Allen Jones	-	Holly Freishtat, Planning	-
Dr. Margaret Pittman	√	Alice Huang, Planning	√
		Alice Kennedy, Housing	-
		Leslie Yancey, Rec & Parks	√
		Nicole Hart, Housing	√

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Co-Chair Reba Cornman called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.

Councilwoman Sharon Middleton moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting, seconded by Sarah Matthews; the vote was unanimously in favor.

Co-Chair Betsy Simon reminded the members that there would be a planning meeting for the Advocacy training project on Wednesday, February 5 at 10:30 AM at the Zeta Center.

II. Presentations

- **Commissioner Sarah Matthews** made a presentation on potential senior advocacy issues and distributed a handout to all members. She encouraged the Commission to take positions on these.
- **Co-Chair Simon** noted that a hearing had been scheduled on Council Bill 19-0479 on January 23. This bill establishes a property tax credit benefiting low income employees of the City of Baltimore. Co-Chair Simon said that Pamela Paige had advised that this hearing might be a good opportunity to advocate for the housing needs of older adults in the City. Deputy Commissioner Tan said that Howard County had legislation through which tax credits are granted to residents who renovate their homes to enable aging in place.
- **Deputy Commissioner Tan** apologized on behalf of Commissioner Dzirasa who was unable to attend the Commission meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Deputy Commissioner Tan presented an overview of the role of the Division of Aging as an area agency on aging, its major programs, and its key initiatives and challenges. Copy of presentation available.
- **Assistant Commissioner Nicole Foster** presented information on the Baltimore City Health Department's 2020 State legislative priorities on aging issues.
- These include supporting:
 - funding for nutrition programs; State funding formulas should be based totally on the number of low income older adults in a jurisdiction.
 - A coordinated network of organizations to address elder abuse, similar to the network developed in Baltimore City.
 - A series of bills to strengthen the public guardianship program including putting a cap on the number of wards a case manager is expected to support
 - Decreasing the waiting list for home and community-based programs.

The Commission members discussed the presentations by Ms. Matthews, Tan and Foster.

Co-Chair Simon expressed concern that the City Department of Parks and Recreation's recently released Future Plan did not address the concerns of older adults. Councilwoman Middleton expressed concern about a Parks and Recreation facility lacking accessibility for persons with disabilities. Ibbby Tanner expressed concern about funding formulas and the large number of people on waiting lists for in-home services.

Deputy Commissioner Tan responded to the comments. She noted that

- The City Commission on Disabilities is charged with overseeing building accessibility issues.
- BCHD Division of Aging is working closely with the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Reginald Moore to ensure support for older adult programs. She suggested that the Commission may want to invite Director Moore to speak at a future meeting.
- Funding formulas are based on the Census, and the priority now is to make sure that everyone in the City is counted.

Councilwoman Middleton suggested that the Commission invite both Director Moore but also representatives from the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP); historical preservation requirements sometimes block upgrades for disability access. Co-Chair Simon noted the importance of language: that centers should be characterized as centers for older adults rather than senior centers.

III. Commission Roundtable

- **Commissioner Susan Francis** noted that the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) is launching an educational series around debt issues. She also said that MVLS is seeking to address the Real ID requirements and how it affects older adults.
- **Co-Chair Simon** said that Z-HAP is now operating at five centers. Z-HAP is planning its annual meeting with legislators. She requested an update on the status of the proposal to have Charm City TV do programming around older adult issues. Co-Chair Cornman asked about plans for the Transportation Forum.
- **Assistant Commissioner Nicole Foster** distributed an updated list of polling places changes, obtained from the City Board of Elections.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.