District of Columbia Commission on Aging

Minutes of March 25, 2015 Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Romaine Thomas, Chairperson; George Arnstein; Don Colodny; Barbara Hair; Janet Heisse; Charles Hicks; Grace Lewis; Samuel McCoy; Carolyn Nicholas; Brenda Williams; Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby; Nathaniel Wilson; Constance Woody

Office on Aging Staff Present:

Antonette Dozier; Garret King; Tanya Reid; Deborah Royster

Guests Present: Ms. Barbara Klein, resident of Ward 3; Ms. Lisa Jacobson; Mr. Joseph Harris; Ms. L. Dixon; Ms. Sue Barnes

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Thomas called to order the regular meeting of the D.C. Commission on Aging ("the Commission") at 10:14 a.m., on March 25, 2015, at the D.C. Office on Aging, 500 K Street, N.E.

Chairperson Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Commission on Aging. Commissioner Brenda Williams provided an inspirational message from the "Daily Word" entitled "I am the Presence of Peace in the World."

The members of the Commission on Aging reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging, with one minor change.

Office on Aging Update

Garret King, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Office on Aging (DCOA), reported that DCOA's budget hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia is scheduled on April 23, 2015 at 11 a.m. He also reported that DCOA's Fourth Annual Senior Symposium will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the Renaissance D.C. Downtown Hotel, 999 9th Street, N.W., and he invited the members of the Commission on Aging to attend this event. Mr. King also discussed "DC Office on Aging's Ecosystem – Livable Communities," a one-page diagram describing key DCOA internal and external stakeholder relationships, and provided the members of the Commission on Aging with copies of this document (copy attached).

Organizational Information and Updates

Brittany Kitt, DCOA Federal Grant Project Lead, reported on DCOA's Alzheimer's grant activities. She reported that a money management program will be launched next week. She also reported that "Club Memory," a social support group for persons with Alzheimer's disease and their families, will open at the Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center (Ward 8); and the Washington Senior Wellness Center (Ward 7). She asked the members of the Commission on Aging to encourage persons in their respective communities to serve as volunteers to assist with this program. A brief period of questions and answers followed Ms. Britt's presentation.

Chairperson Thomas noted that, although Ms. Kohn was unable to be present at the meeting, she provided the members of the Commission on Aging with a written update on the D.C. Age Friendly City Initiative (copy attached).

Amy Mix, Supervising Attorney, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, provided an update on real property tax sales in the District of Columbia, and on property tax assistance that is available to older adults and other homeowners in the District of Columbia, including homestead relief; the senior and disabled credit; senior tax deferral; and the Schedule H Individual Income Property Tax Credit. She also reported on the D.C. Superior Court mortgage foreclosure mediation program. A brief period of questions and answers followed Ms. Mix's presentation.

Committee Reports

Chairperson Thomas reviewed the committee structure of the Commission on Aging and asked the commissioners to confirm their committee participation.

Housing

Commissioner Williams reported that she will present a formal report at the April 22, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging.

Transportation

No report.

Education and Employment

Commissioner Atkinson-Willoughby presented the attached summary of recommendations from the Education and Employment Committee.

Governance

Commissioner McCoy reported that the Ward 4 Mini-Commission met and revised its bylaws, and stated that the revised bylaws are available to review. Chairperson Thomas encouraged the

members of the Commission on Aging to review this document and share with the mini-commissions in their respective wards.

Health and Wellness

No report.

Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation

Commissioner Nicholas reported that the Elder Abuse and Financial Exploitation Committee will meet immediately after today's meeting.

Ward Reports

- **Ward 5**

  Chairperson Thomas acknowledged the presence of Ms. Barnes and Mr. Harris, with the Ward 5 Mini-Commission, and stated that she has conducted meetings with seniors and mini-commissioners in Ward 5.

Adjournment

Upon motion and unanimous approval by the members of the Commission on Aging, the March 25, 2015 meeting of the Commission on Aging was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

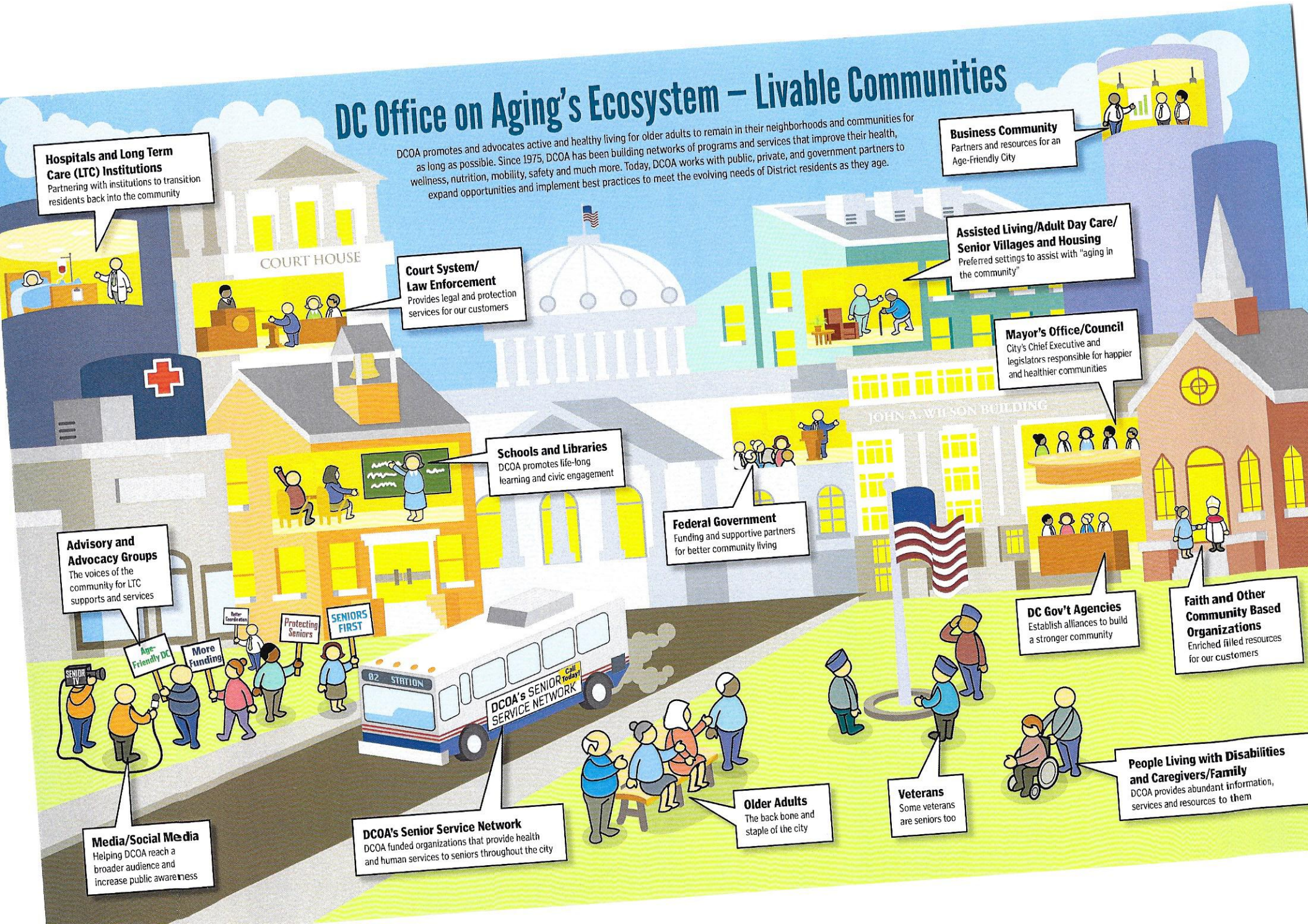
These minutes were recorded by Deborah M. Royster, General Counsel, D.C. Office on Aging, and were formally approved by the Commission on Aging on April 20, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

DC Office on Aging's Ecosystem – Livable Communities

DCOA promotes and advocates active and healthy living for older adults to remain in their neighborhoods and communities for as long as possible. Since 1975, DCOA has been building networks of programs and services that improve their health, wellness, nutrition, mobility, safety and much more. Today, DCOA works with public, private, and government partners to expand opportunities and implement best practices to meet the evolving needs of District residents as they age.



Hospitals and Long Term Care (LTC) Institutions
Partnering with institutions to transition residents back into the community

Court System/ Law Enforcement
Provides legal and protection services for our customers

Business Community
Partners and resources for an Age-Friendly City

Assisted Living/Adult Day Care/ Senior Villages and Housing
Preferred settings to assist with "aging in the community"

Mayor's Office/Council
City's Chief Executive and legislators responsible for happier and healthier communities

Schools and Libraries
DCOA promotes life-long learning and civic engagement

Federal Government
Funding and supportive partners for better community living

Advisory and Advocacy Groups
The voices of the community for LTC supports and services

DC Gov't Agencies
Establish alliances to build a stronger community

Faith and Other Community Based Organizations
Enriched filled resources for our customers

Media/Social Media
Helping DCOA reach a broader audience and increase public awareness

DCOA's Senior Service Network
DCOA funded organizations that provide health and human services to seniors throughout the city

Older Adults
The back bone and staple of the city

Veterans
Some veterans are seniors too

People Living with Disabilities and Caregivers/Family
DCOA provides abundant information, services and resources to them

Age-Friendly DC

To: DC Commission on Aging
From: Gail Kohn
Subject: Update
Date: March 25, 2015

Thank you to the DC Commission on Aging for its support of Age-Friendly DC. Here is an executive summary of what we have done to inform DC residents about the initiative and its Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan 2014-2017 to transform the city into an even better place to live, work and play. We have been working steadily with researchers and analysts from many DC agencies, including DCOA, on the World Health Organization Age-Friendly City Indicator Guide report to be delivered March 30th.

Since the February meeting

- Trained volunteer Age-Friendly DC speakers (including 3 DC Commissioners on Aging members, Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby, Janet Heisse, Ron Swanda, and mini-Commissioner Sue Barnes): 50
- Library presentations completed: 12 of 25, so far.
- AARP-DC volunteers' presentation including DC Commissioner on Aging Barbara Hair.
- Presentations on Age-Friendly DC are also being scheduled at ANCs. faith-based communities, wellness centers, DC Parks and Recreation and other locations--selected by speakers.
- Presentation on Kojo Nnamdi show by Dr. Thompson called out Age-Friendly DC – Dr. T. can tell you what he said.
- Presentation at the Aging2.0 Washington, DC meeting for entrepreneurs interested in investing in or creating businesses to engage or provide services to those in the second half of their lives.

Where we are headed in the next month

- Age-Friendly DC presentation 3/26/15 to Northwest Neighbors Village and others invited Chevy Chase Community Center
- Guardianship Conference presentation 3/27/15 about Age-Friendly DC District of Columbia Court
- See article 4/27/15 about the Age-Friendly DC Business initiative in the *Business Journal*
- Presentation by Gail Kohn March 30, 2015 of the Age-Friendly DC report on the pilot World Health Organization Age-Friendly City Indicator Guide in Kobe, Japan
- Upcoming DC Library presentations, listed in a flyer.

- Homebound Engagement survey will be distributed before the end of April to identify volunteers who want to talk on a group telephone call with others who have similar interests in arts, sports, health, spiritual issues, politics, or other topics, starting in the fall.
- Work will proceed on the Age-Friendly DC Outcome Measures report to DC residents.