



Commission on Aging
Executive Committee
February 20, 2025
9:30 AM -11:30 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Linda Bergofsky, Yvette Monroe, Wayne Berman, Kate Stein, Morris Klein, Laurie Pross, Betsy Carrier, Peter Illig, Pazit Aviv, David Engel, Kathleen McGuinness, Marie Sloan, Norman Goldstein

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by the Chair.

The agenda was reviewed, and no modifications were proposed. Minutes approved.

II. Key Discussion Topics

1. Public Forum, and Finances

- Wayne provided an update on the public forum planning efforts.
- Kate and Linda are leading legislative initiatives related to aging policies in Maryland.
- Discussions included the nursing home effort and inspection processes.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - David reported the Commission on Aging (COA) account balance at \$2,116.74.
 - The committee agreed that Wayne and Laurie would schedule a meeting at Truist Bank to update account signatories.

- The group agreed to formally route communications through the liaison for better coordination.

2. Commission Communication and Information Sharing

- Peter emphasized the importance of information sharing and avoiding miscommunication within the Commission.
- Members agreed that all official documents should be reviewed by Peter before distribution.
- A discussion was held on standardizing document formatting before submission to streamline the process.
- The group will establish formal communication guidelines to ensure clarity and accountability.

3. Public Forum Logistics and Venue

- The public forum will be held at the Silver Spring Civic Center Bohrer Park (Gaithersburg) on May 21st.
- Setup will begin at 8 AM, with the event running until 3 PM.
- The committee discussed logistics, including the presence of the County Executive, whether in person or via video.
- Breakout rooms and table setups were considered for the event.
- The Executive Committee unanimously approved the event logistics.

4. Commission Appointments and Mentorship

- The Commission is working on filling 8 vacant seats, with 3 potential incumbents and 7 new applicants.
- Discussions included whether to fill the final seat immediately or leave it vacant for a year.
- The group agreed on assigning mentors (“buddies”) to new commissioners to facilitate onboarding.
- An interview panel was formed, consisting of Morris, Betsy, and Peter.

5. Commission Meeting Feb. Agenda and Updates

- Linda presented a detailed agenda for the upcoming full commission meeting.
- Key agenda items:
 - Guest Speaker: Kate Stewart
 - Panel discussions

- Budget review and County Council meetings preparation
- Drafting letters of support for community care retirement communities and end-of-life options.
- Kate is working on a letter of support for an infrastructure working group resolution.
- The Commission is closely monitoring nursing home-related legislation at the state level.

6. Maryland Legislative Efforts and Budget

- Linda shared her testimony experience in Annapolis, where their aging-related bill was the last to be presented.
- Opposition came primarily from the State of Maryland.
- Nursing Home Inspections:
 - Concerns about outdated inspection data impacting quality-of-care assessments.
 - Budget discussions included a proposed 50/50 cost-sharing model with the county.

7. Immigration Working Group:

- Kate provided an update on a script for an informational video.
- Potential collaboration with partner organizations.
- Gilchrist Center Website:
 - Challenges persist in updating information for older adults.
 - Committee agreed that all prepared materials must be reviewed by Peter/staff before finalization.
- Members were reminded to submit talking points for Kate Stewart's upcoming presentation.
- The meeting concluded with a reminder of the upcoming Full Commission meeting.

III. Action Items & Next Steps

Task	Assigned To	Deadline
Send reservation request for Silver Spring Civic Center for May 21st Public Forum (post meeting revision-reserved Bohrer Park)	Peter	ASAP
Update account signatories at Truist Bank	Wayne & Laurie	By next meeting
Send full COA agenda to Peter for distribution	Linda	Today
Compile & send County Council meeting script template	David	Next week
Draft & send talking points for Kate Stewart's presentation	Linda	Next week
Participate in interview panel for COA applicants	Morris, Betsy, Peter	Ongoing
Assign Executive Committee members as mentors for new commissioners	All	Ongoing
Create a tip sheet for administrative processes	Peter	Next meeting
Compile and distribute list of past Commission letters	Linda	Next meeting
Submit additional talking points/questions for Kate Stewart	All COA Members	ASAP

Adjourn 11:30 am