



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
Department on Aging

**Milwaukee County Commission on Aging  
Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 2019**

**Commissioners Present**

Sharon Abston-Coleman, *PhD*  
Ronald Byington  
Maria Castrejon-Pérez, *Secretary*  
Patsy J. Delgado  
John K. Griffith  
Jason Haas, *Milwaukee County Supervisor*  
Debra Jupka  
Fred Knueppel, *Vice Chair*  
Jordan Luhr  
Bettie A. Rodgers, *J.D.*  
Charles Vang  
Pastor Johnny C. White, Jr.  
Barbara Wyatt Sibley, *Chair*

**Commissioners Excused**

Elizabeth Meyer-Arnold, *R.N., M.S.*  
Cesar Pabón

**Commissioners Not Present**

Gladys M. Carroll-Weathersby

**Milwaukee County Staff Present**

Andy Bethke  
Holly Davis  
Dan Idzikowski  
Jon Janowski  
Jill Knight  
Beth Monrial Zatarski  
Vonda Nyang  
Bekki Schmitt

**Guests Present**

Deborah Anderson, *SDC*  
Barbara Bechtel, *Advocacy Committee*  
Christie Carter, *LGBT Center of Milwaukee*  
Dave Farwell, *Corporation Counsel*  
Lynn Gall, *DHS*  
Thomas Gossett, *Goodwill*  
Casper Green, *Advocacy Committee*  
Bob Haase, *Advocacy Committee*  
Vi Hawkins, *Activist*  
Matthew Hayes, *Senior Law*  
Rob Henken, *Wisconsin Policy Forum*  
Vevette Hill-Nwagbaroacha, *SOA*  
David Hoffman, *Advocacy Committee*  
Dwight Ivory, *Washington Park Participant*  
James Kimble, *Advisory Council*  
Sue Moeser, *Wisconsin Policy Forum*  
Mary Ann Monfils  
Morgan Morgan, *SOA*  
Harold Oemig, *Washington Park Participant*  
Lorrie Pardo, *SOA*  
A'lyna Romain, *Milwaukee LGBT Center*  
Judith Troestler, *UAW 438 Retirees*  
Linda Wade, *Moving Forward Milwaukee*  
Song Xiong-Buck, *Milwaukee Christian Center*  
Susan Yee, *Milwaukee Christian Center*

**I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:**

Chair, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, welcomed the meeting attendees. The Commission on Aging meeting was called to order at 9:00 am, at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 West Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2019, COMMISSION ON AGING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** To approve the February 22, 2019, Commission on Aging Committee meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Vang **Second**).

**III. CONSENT AGENDA COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**A. WELLNESS COMMITTEE (December 18, 2018)** See *Wellness Committee meeting minutes for December 18, 2018, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.

**B. SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE (January 15, 2019)** See *Wellness Committee meeting minutes for January 15, 2019, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.

**C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (February 4, 2019)** See *Executive Committee meeting minutes for February 4, 2019, (mailed and distributed)* for a comprehensive explanation of topic/issue discussions.

**MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda for the December 18, 2018 Wellness Committee meeting minutes, the January 15, 2019 Service Delivery Committee meeting minutes and the February 4, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Knueppel **Moved**, Abston-Coleman **Second**).

**IV. REFLECTION:** Commissioner, Charles Vang.

Commissioner Charles Vang reflected on his life in the US, his parents moving to the US, and the time he served in the secret war in Laos. Their mission was to assist the US in rescuing US airplane pilots and soldiers who were lost in Laos territory during the Vietnam war from 1964-1972.

**V. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSION ON AGING BYLAWS REVIEW – ARTICLE III AND ARTICLE IV:**

The Commission reviewed Article III and Article IV of the bylaws under the advisement of Corporation Counsel. The Chair announced how the process of the bylaw review would be conducted before voting will take place on the articles.

Accept Article III, Duties of the Commission, Section I, Duties of the Commission on Aging, with no change. A vote was taken to accept no change.

**MOTION:** Accept Article III, Duties of the Commission, Section I, Duties of the Commission on Aging, with no changes.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Griffith **Moved**, Abston-Coleman **Second**).

Corporation Counsel added a *Legislative Officer* role to Article IV of the bylaws to align them with Chapter 53.03 of the County Ordinances. A vote was taken to make this change to the bylaws.

**MOTION:** To accept Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, Section I, Officers, with the addition of a Legislative Officer as a Commission officer.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Vang **Second**).

In Subsection A, under Article IV, Section 2, Election of Officers, there was a proposed addition at the beginning of the sentence that reads, "Elections shall be held annually..." A vote was taken to accept this change to the bylaws.

**MOTION:** Accept Article IV, Section 2, with the addition of "Elections shall be held annually" to Subsection (A). No changes to Subsection (B), or C.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Jupka **Moved**, Knueppel **Second**).

A vote was taken to hold-over Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, Section 3, Vacancies of Commission Officers. Chapter 53 of the County Ordinances gives the power to make appointments for vacancies and or resignations to County Executive.

**MOTION:** To hold over Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, Section 3, Vacancies of Commission Officers, until the Commission can consult with Corporation Counsel on the proper language needed for the bylaws to be in conformance with Chapter 53 of the County Ordinances.

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Knueppel **Moved**, Rodgers **Second**).

The Commission tabled the vote on Article IV, Section 4, Subsection A until the Commission could obtain a profile on the County Board's structure of Standing Committees. The Commission also wanted to receive advisement from Corporation Counsel on how to move forward with making a policy decision on this item.

**MOTION:** To hold over Article IV, Officers and Their Duties, Section 4, Officer's Duties, Subsection (A) (1), Subsection (A) (2), Subsection (A) (3), Subsection (A) (4), Subsection (A) (5), and Subsection (A) (6).

**ACTION:** Motion carried unanimously (Knueppel **Moved**, Jupka **Second**).

**VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Holly Davis, Executive Director  
Ms. Davis announced that the 2020 County Budget process is underway, and that the Department on Aging had recently submitted their Capital Budget expenses for four senior centers: Washington Park Senior Center, Wilson Park Senior Center, Clinton Rose Senior Center, and the Kelly Senior Center, as they are all in need of various repairs. The department's challenges for the 2020 budget are tax levy and Resource Center revenue. Ms. Davis provided updates on the Unison contract reassignments for the Family Caregiver Support program, Senior Employment Services program, Telephone Reassurance contact, and Neighborhood Outreach Program.

**VII. COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPORT:** No Report

**VIII. STATE UPDATES:** No Report

**IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** No Report

**X. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE REPORT:** No Report

**XI. WI POLICY FORUM PRESENTATION:**

The Wisconsin Policy Forum is a research-based organization whose primary mission is to drive data decision-making for local and state government and school districts. The WI Policy Forum conducted nation-wide research on other County-owned Senior Centers with close similarities to Milwaukee County to provide options for the County to consider as it thinks about the future of its senior centers. One of their research findings was that most counties do not own senior centers, but instead provide funding for older adult programming. Also, the majority are multi-generational centers or recreational centers that offer programs for all ages. A final report will be released within three to four weeks. (For more information see attached WI Policy Forum PowerPoint presentation or visit our MCDA website: [county.milwaukee.gov/aging](http://county.milwaukee.gov/aging)).

**XII. COMMISSION ON AGING ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS:**

- **Announcement from the COA Chair:** The Chairperson reminded Commissioners of their commitment to visit a County-owned Senior Center, as well as to attend one of their advisory committee meetings.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** War, Memory, and Healing: Conversation and book Celebration, on Friday, April 12, 2019 (see attached flyer for more details).
- **SAVE THE DATE:** On Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 10:00am. Indian Council of the Elderly Grand Opening event (see attached flyer).
- **2019-2021 Wisconsin State Budget Flyer** – An updated flyer was distributed to meeting attendees (see attached flyer).

**XIII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

The next Commission on Aging meeting is at **9:00am on Friday, April 26, 2019**, at **Wilson Park Senior Center**: 2601 W. Howard Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

Respectfully submitted,



Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant