

Local Development Council January Meeting

January 15, 2025

Attendance: Dr. Toye Latimore, Barbara Holt Streeter, A'Lana Lester, Delegate Veronica Turner, Delegate Jamila Woods, Ebonique Bethea, Evelyn Wilson, Dani Moore-King, Evalina Huggins, Lori Paylor, Sharisse Lane, and Kanika Bynum.

Meeting called to order at 7:13pm

Welcome and Remarks

- Barbara Holt Streeter
 - Provided updates on administration changes.
 - Preparations for inclement weather.
 - Updates on upcoming budget hearings.

Minutes

- Dr. Latimore – motion to approve the October 16, 2024, LDC Meeting Minutes
- Seconded by Delegate Woods
- No debate, all in favor.
 - Approved and passed with unanimous consent.

Elected Officials Reports

- **Delegate Turner**
 - Meetings with PEPCO regarding rising energy costs.
 - Challenges affecting seniors, including snow removal and utility issues.
 - Dr. Latimore expressed concerns about snow removal process, WSSC water main breaks, PEPCO energy costs.
- **Delegate Woods**
 - Learned that streets were not plowed due to extremely low temperatures, which have been lower than in previous years.
 - Salt and plowing are ineffective when temperatures are below 29 degrees, as salt does not prevent icing.
 - Has been in touch with the county about snow removal delays, emphasizing the need for better communication with the residents.

- Sponsoring 10 bills, including ones addressing health insurance, mental health and coronary artery disease testing, with support from John Hopkins.
- Expressed concern about the state's budget deficit and its impact on vulnerable populations, particularly those with developmental disabilities and is advocating for solutions.

Needs Assessment Committee Report

- **Ebonique Bethea**
 - High priority areas identified:
 - General senior services/case management services
 - Youth programming
 - There is a need to encourage nonprofits that provide senior services to apply for grant funding.
 - Many seniors struggle to access available services due to a lack of guidance on where to start.
 - A case management or referral system for seniors for seniors should be explored to connect them with resources more effectively.
 - The LDC should prioritize funding for senior-focused services this year.
 - A review of grant applications will be conducted to identify organizations that provide case management or similar services to seniors.

- **Councilman Burroughs Student Leadership Academy**
 - Seeking an LDC representative to speak with students from Oxon Hill, Friendly and Crossland High School about what the LDC does and how it supports the community.
 - Dr. Latimore volunteered to participate in the student interviews/discussions.

Grant Assignments for 2025

- **Grantee Engagement**
 - Dr. Latimore proposes assigning council members to three grant awardees to build partnerships and ensure proper oversight.
 - Council members are encouraged to call or visit the organizations once a month to check in and ensure funds are being used properly.
 - Council members should inform grantees that funds cannot be repurposed, and any unspent money must be returned.
 - Council members will review the list of grants and email Evelyn Wilson with their selections.

- **Mid-Year Reports and Year-End Reports**
 - Mid-Year reports are due on January 31, 2025.
 - Year-End reports are due on June 30, 2025.

February 2025 Meeting Agenda

- **Utility Updates**
 - Delegate Turner will follow up on rising utility bills and senior payment plans with Pepco.
 - Share any updates from Pepco on rate increases.
- **Mid-Year Reports**
 - Due by January 31, 2025
- **Senior Services**
 - Follow up on a streamlined process to prevent seniors from going through multiple agencies for assistance.
 - Review available nonprofit resources to support senior needs.
- **Grant Assignment Check-In**
 - Council members will report on their assigned organizations.

LDC Leadership Transition

- Dr. Latimore announced that her term as Chair will end after this year.
- Members interested in the position should contact Barbara Holt Streeter.

Motion to Adjourn by Dr. Latimore at 8:22pm

- Seconded by Delegate Turner
- All in favor