

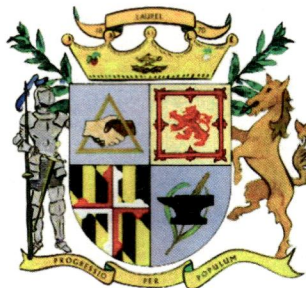
COMMITTEE

ABDUL RUKNUDIN
Committee Member

ROSETTE LADSON
Committee Member

GENE EPLEE
Committee Member

CRISTINE JOHNSON
Former Council Member



ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
Councilmember
Chair

MARIA R. MORALES
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Committee meets quarterly.

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 6:00 P.M. VIRTUAL- ZOOM MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. with Chair, Councilman Adrian G. Simmons presiding. The roll was called with the following members present: Abdul Ruknudin, Rosette Ladson, and Former Councilwoman Christine Johnson. Staff Present was Maria Morales, Secretary, Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk. There were no members of the public present.

Brief Introductions

Chairman Simmons opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee, noting that this was the first gathering with the newly appointed members, and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

The Committee learned that the new appointee, Mr. Ruknudin, was a senior resident with a professional background in biotech and oncology at the Department of Veterans Affairs. He expressed his interest in continuing to advocate for seniors and individuals with disabilities and shared that he previously served on Congressman Glenn Ivey's Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Ms. Ladson introduced herself next, explaining that she had firsthand experience as a caregiver and was familiar with the lack of resources available to families.

Chairman Simmons then welcomed back former Councilwoman Johnson, who also had personal experience with caregiver challenges and wished to continue helping identify and expand resources for City residents.

New Business

- a. List of known organizations that help serve persons with disabilities and senior residents.**

Chairman Simmons asked the Committee to put together a list of resources for persons with disabilities and seniors. The list was compiled and separated by federal, state and local levels.

City:

- Senior programs through Parks and Recreation
- Senior transportation services through Parks and Recreation
- Senior services through Parks and Recreation
- Adopt a Senior program through the Mayors Office
- Senior real estate tax credit
- Free tax preparation during tax season through Department of Humans Services.

County:

- Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center
- Exercise and programs through Prince Georges Parks and Recreation
- Social Services Department for multiple Counties located at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice center.

State:

- Maryland Department of Aging
- Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Maryland Commission of Disabilities
- Maryland Commission of Aging

Federal:

- National Park passes at discounted rates for seniors
- AARP

b. Feedback on accessibility to City business and activities.

Chairman Simmons asked the Committee members for feedback, based on their experience in the City of Laurel on accessibility on any City facility, park and businesses.

Ms. Ladson informed the committee that as an educator she often paid close attention to accessibility throughout the City. Because of her experience working with children with disabilities, she noted that the City could improve its ramp access. She also shared that she has not observed any City events specifically geared toward seniors or individuals with disabilities and expressed interest in seeing more programming dedicated to these communities.

Councilwoman Johnson informed the Committee that the City offers transportation services to seniors, to transport them to their errands or appointments. She also noted that most City parks are accessible and open to the public.

Councilman Simmons directed everyone to the Committees page on the City's website, indicating that he would love to update it, and have it serve as a first stop shop for resources and information for seniors and people with disabilities.

c. List enhancement ideas for the City to best serve the community.

Chair, Councilman Simmons asked the Committee if they had a chance to come up with ideas on how the City could better enhance its services.

Ms. Johnson emphasized the importance of meeting seniors and individuals with disabilities where they are, rather than expecting them to seek out resources on their own. She noted that the community often faced challenges in reaching out and suggested conducting outreach directly at locations such as Selbourne House and Morningside to provide information and support.

Ms. Ladson proposed hosting an event at the senior center that included music and activities, along with in-person assessments to better understand residents' needs. She also suggested distributing flyers and City service calendars tailored specifically to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Councilman Simmons expressed strong support for these ideas and recommended partnering with the Mayor's Office through the Adopt-a-Senior program to help deliver resources and information to the community.

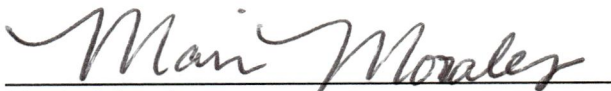
Next Meeting Date

Lastly, Chairman Simmons asked the Committee how often they would like to meet and whether they were interested in holding some meetings in person to strengthen collaboration. The committee unanimously agreed to continue meeting quarterly and to hold every other meeting in person. The next meeting was then scheduled for June 4, 2026, to be held virtually.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Approved:

Date:



Maria Morales
Administrative Assistant II

Thursday, June 4, 2026

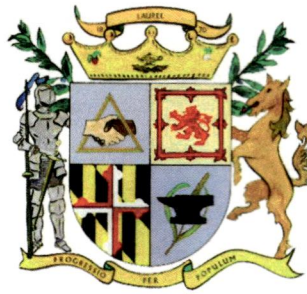
COMMITTEE

ABDUL RUKNUDIN
Committee Member

ROSETTE LADSON
Committee Member

GENE EPLEE
Committee Member

CRISTINE JOHNSON
Former Council Member



ADRIAN G. SIMMONS
Councilmember
Chair

MARIA R. MORALES
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
SENIOR RESIDENTS AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Committee meets quarterly.

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

**Thursday, April 2, 2026
6:00 PM
Virtual - Zoom**

Please contact the Clerk at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2120 or clerk@laurel.md.us to request Zoom Meeting link by 2:00 pm the day of the meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Brief introductions among Committee members
4. New business
 - a. Compile starting list of known organizations, non-profits, programs, and government department/ divisions at the City, County, and State level that serve persons with disabilities and seniors (to be published to Committee's webpage)
 - b. Gather feedback on accessibility to City business and activities for persons with disabilities and senior residents

- c. Compile list of enhancement ideas on how the City can best serve persons with disabilities and senior residents

5. Next Meeting

6. Adjourn

CAC of Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities Committee

Attendance/Voting Record

Thursday, April 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Virtual- Zoom Meeting

Start Time: 6:03pm End Time: 6:55 Public in Attendance: 0

- Roll Call

- ☒ Abdul Ruknudin ☐ Gene Eplee ☒ Rosette Ladson ☒ Former Councilwoman Christine Johnson
☒ Adrian Simmons, Chair - Councilmember

- Brief Introductions

- New Business:

- a. List Organizations, non-profits, programs and government departments at the city, county or state level that serve seniors and persons with disabilities

City level Senior programs through Parks & Rec, senior transportation, Senior Services, adopt a Senior, Senior real estate tax credit, free tax prep during tax season & LMSC. CM Simmons provided further information regarding veteran & senior tax credits. County: Beltsville Laurel - Beltsville Senior Center, Facilities & programs through PG MNCPPC. LMSC also provides space for County Social Services. State: MD Department of Aging, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Congressman Glen Ivey Advisory Committee and additional legislation Federal: National park passes at a discounted rates for Seniors. AARP.

b. Feedback on Accessibility to City business and activities for persons with disabilities and senior residents

MS. Ladson, an educator works with children w/ disabilities, and often doesn't see ramps, does not see events geared towards seniors or ppl w/ disabilities, suggested having a "Senior Prom". CM Johnson informed that she is familiar w/ the Senior Services Transportation and tries catered to seniors, additionally informing that all city events are accessible and open for everyone. Mr. Ruknudin is unfamiliar with what the city offers, but is interested in learning. CM Simmons directed everyone's screenshared the City's website for the committee, informing everyone of updates he wants to make to it's making it a one stop shop for resources & information

c. List of enhancement ideas on how the City can best serve persons with disabilities and senior residents

MS. Ladson suggested having more senior events that include music and activities that can unite everyone, like a decades day or have needs assessments of what they are interested in. provide flyers or distribute calendars with events. CM Johnson emphasized a meeting seniors & people w/ disabilities where they are, by going to them, meeting them at the Seaborn house, morningside houses and other senior living facilities to provide resources. CM Simmons suggested possibly partnering w/ the Mayors Adopt-A-Senior program

CM Simmons asked Committee how/when they would like to meet next. everyone agreed to meet online and hold in person meeting every other month.

- **Next Meeting Date:** 6/4/26

- **Adjourn**