



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 20th, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Remote Participation

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Paul Raia, Karen Mathiasen, Maureen St. Hilaire (Co-Chair), Paul Parravano, Liza Molina, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director)

Absent: Kerrie Fallon

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Coordinator), Grace Carpenter (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Disability Advocate), Neil Tracey (Intern with Joe Kennedy's office), Alexis Smith and Carolina Prieto (MAPC)

Minutes

1. Call to Order 4:10pm
2. Read Ground Rules, Welcome & Introductions
 - a. DeAngelis reviewed virtual guidelines.
 - b. DeAngelis thanked Carpenter for her contributions to the commission and willingness to step into the next commission vacancy. Welcomed and introduced Paul Parravano as new commissioner. Parravano provided his background and plans and goals in joining the Disability Commission.
 - c. DeAngelis introduced Neil Tracey, intern with Joe Kennedy's office to discuss voter mail-in. Tracey explains the true vote by mail system, encouraged group to contact their state representative and senator and urge them to support "vote-by-mail" for both the primary and the general election and that unenrolled voters be sent both ballots.
3. Approve February Minutes (5 min)
 - a. Mathiasen motioned to approve minutes move, and Rademacher seconded and approved.

4. Check-Ins (30 min)
 - a. DeAngelis opened the floor to discuss how all commissioners are doing and talk about idea of putting out a letter of support. Everyone had the opportunity to share and check-in.
5. Fair Housing Action Plan- Alexis Smith & Carolina Prieto (10min)
 - a. DeAngelis introduced Alexis Smith and Carolina Prieto to discuss Fair Housing Action Plan and their involvement with the plan for Arlington. Looking to have input from group on barriers to access, discrimination, and where it is unintentional. Held interviews with service providers to see what their client complaints are, but looking to have more views and fill in the gaps so the best recommendations can be made to the town.
 - b. Prieto and Smith asked to have feedback on the idea of holding virtual focus groups and one-on-one calls to get more and share. Discussion of some concerns.
 - c. Discussion of complaints being presented by ADA coordinator or commission to ABA as to protect those in need. Talked about ideas of how to conduct more conversations and include more voices.
 - d. Potentially hold a forum to have this larger discussion with different groups: Special Ed. PAC group.
 - e. Next steps: During the second week of June have a few opportunities to attend focus group, also have the option to do call ins, and Harvey will send out additional information.
6. COVID 19 Related topics (15 min)
 - a. Leigh discussed issue of senior/those with disabilities housing, COVID testing and will there be opportunities for people living in these buildings to get testing.
 - i. If testing positive and should be quarantining- example smokers, going in and out, maintenance workers go across all the buildings
 - ii. Appoint wardens on floors to have authority to recommend the COVID guidelines, and connect with COA to make connections for in home health aides.
 - iii. Share Leigh's concerns with HHS/Christine Bongiorno to see what most appropriate approach is.
7. Budget Update (5 min)
 - a. Harvey shared Jim Feeney's request for facilities to use \$3500 to renovate flooring in Town Hall vestibule, explained changes and impact.
 - b. Motion by Rademacher to use the funding to give to the floor, seconded and approved by all.
8. Committee Updates (10 min)

- a. Devney is the official rep to sustainable transportation advisory planning commission. The commission wants people to fill out a survey, can the commission assist with circulating the survey? Yes, we can send out to larger network.
 - b. Rademacher on town updates:
 - i. Town has solicited bids to replace sidewalks in center of town, Pleasant Street east to Franklin Street, and along Broadway – not the Broadway plaza project; 2-3-month project
 - ii. Bike path and Lake Street improvements, traffic signal are all upcoming.
9. Jill Harvey Updates (10)
- a. Training is currently on pause for now until we can reconnect and set a time with Town Counsel Doug Heim.
 - b. Transition and Implementation Plan Presentation will be taking place virtually at 6pm on Thursday 6/25/2020. IHCD presenters are ready and will work with Jenny Raitt from Planning.
10. Priorities for next meeting's agenda (5min)
- a. High school project- Raia and DeAngelis will determine next steps.
 - i. Virtually attend to meeting, speak with school committee
 - b. Update on Fair Housing Action Plan
 - c. Training over the summer?
 - d. Virtual retreat- set goals, priorities, calendar, working groups/sub committees

Meeting adjourns at 6:05pm