



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Karen Mathiasen, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Kerrie Fallon, Paul Raia,

Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire (Vice Chair), Liza Molina

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Coordinator), Grace Carpenter (Volunteer)

Minutes

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve September Minutes
 - a. Devney makes revision to minutes, item 4. C first sentence.
 - b. Parravano motioned to approve minutes, all approve and accept.
3. Check-Ins
4. New Business
 - a. Automatic Traffic Signals- tabled until next month when Leigh can be present.
 - b. Warrant idea- to include commission as part of process with town dept/boards
 - i. Devney explains that this would happen for April Town Meeting, if commission wishes to do so, could start process now and gain counsel guidance. Harvey suggested we get a group working on the process and how to proactively be included in talks and projects with departments, boards, commissions, etc. That can be worked on for spring TM.
 - ii. Discussion around private versus public, what the commission has authority to do and not do, and what projects they should be involved in. Commission needs to establish relationships with

- partners/departments, schedule meetings with individuals and work out plans.
 - iii. DeAngelis proposes we establish working group, needs a lead to start this process.
 - iv. Devney proposes Building Inspector should attend meeting to explain process of building approval, where ADA compliance comes into that and how the commission can be best used. Next step would be to invite to join, Harvey will get contact info.
 - v. Discuss next time, expanding more to departments, training/raise awareness about commission and how to access and use them to their advantage.
5. Training Recap & Retreat Discussion (35 min) (move to end of meeting)
- a. 5 Key takeaways from Town Counsel's training
 - i. Raia: our mission is to raise awareness of inclusion of folks with disabilities
 - ii. DeAngelis: 7 pillars of inclusion we should consider
 - b. Key components for retreat
 - i. Discussion around committee work/outreach work
 - ii. Evaluate how this commission works together
 - iii. Everyone in this commission is going to need to hold a position
 - iv. Create some organizational process
 - v. Chair of commission needs to rotate; elections, positions, nomination structure
 - vi. Map out goals: 3 things to settle on, accomplish and finish
 - vii. Focus on special education, discuss around challenges of public school right now and specifically for special education
 - viii. Think about the ongoing activities we want to do/ connections that are ongoing
6. Committee Updates (20 min)
- a. Lexington Hotel: the response felt dismissive.
 - b. Rademacher: sidewalk project is almost complete and the replacement of bricks has been positive. Lake Street project wrapping up.
 - c. Parravano: attended latest election modernization committee meeting, mainly discussed mail in ballots, drop box, accessibility. Now with Early Voting, Carpenter added details about the entrance and alerting Clerk's Office of the accessible entrance confusion. The exit is not clear, but accessible route is entrance that can also be used as an exit.
 - d. Raia: Has been appointed to interior committee for the High School Building Committee, they have only met once no recent update.

- e. DeAngelis: business discrimination/inclusion group discuss the campaign that already is happening versus starting over. Raia would like to join the group.
- 7. Budget Update (5 min)
 - a. Raia motions that commission move forward with allocating \$4,500 to have IHCD review High School Building plans, Parravano seconds. All in favor.
- 8. DEI Updates (5 min)
 - a. Harvey making sure commission supports removal of lift, will let Town Manager know.
- 9. Priorities for next meeting's agenda (5 min)
 - a. Rademacher will present on new DPW building, and renovations to existing buildings, and solicit feedback.
 - b. Automatic Traffic Signals
 - c. How to maximize movement in other areas of town, better pedestrian and sidewalks

Meeting adjourns at 6:00pm

Commission members not able to attend please email both Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us and Cynthia DeAngelis prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.