



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

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

Guests: Jillian Harvey (Director of DEI), Christina Coleman (DEI Administrative Assistant), Christine Bongiorno (Director of Health & Human Services), Grace Carpenter (volunteer), Janice Cagan-Teuber (resident), Ellen Leigh (volunteer, advocate)

Absent: Kerrie Fallon

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm by Devney

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve January Meeting Minutes & Emergency Meeting Minutes
 - a. Parravano motioned to approve January meeting minutes, Raia seconded, motion approved.
 - b. Devney motioned to approve emergency meeting minutes, Raia seconded, motion approved.
3. Check-Ins
 - a. Raia – Arlington HS Architect responded to recommendations from IHCD.
4. New Business (25 min)
 - a. Automatic Traffic Signals – Tabled to next meeting
 - b. Vaccines
 - i. Christine Bongiorno (Director of HHS) – Town started vaccinating first responders in the beginning of January; opened up to health-care workers; then residents 75+.
 - ii. HHS has been working hard to get residents vaccinated; there are three clinics for residents 75+; Council on aging has assisted with registering Arlington residents 75+ for their vaccines; the Veteran’s Services Director assisted getting qualified Veterans to the VA for vaccinations.
 - iii. Arlington Health Department is getting 100 doses of the covid-19 vaccine per week for the Arlington community, but Governor Baker announced today that the Commonwealth will no longer be providing vaccines to hospitals, local community centers, and local public health departments – all vaccines in the state will be administered at Mass vaccination clinics.
 - iv. HHS will be getting a small amount of vaccines to provide vaccinations to residents who live in senior housing buildings (five in town); possibly some for home visits.
 - v. Devney spoke with Commission on Disability Alliance (CODA) regarding writing a letter to the governor about their concerns with the vaccination distribution process - no update on if CODA is writing a letter.
 - vi. Leigh and Devney will draft a letter on behalf of the Disability Commission requesting that Governor Baker provide vaccinations to local public health departments, prioritizing residents who are disabled specifically those who cannot leave their homes to go to a physical vaccination clinic. Will consult with HHS about the letter.
 - c. Retreat Update
 - i. Parravano – Retreat is Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 3:00 pm until 5:30pm; overview of agenda: ice breakers, goals and priorities, working groups, and inspirational statement.

- ii. Retreat starts promptly at 3:00pm; Harvey assigned as time keeper for the retreat.
 - d. Snow Removal
 - i. Rademacher explained the snow removal process – during start of snow storm DPW prioritizes keeping the roads as safe as possible for emergency access; snow typically gets plowed to the sides of the roads. The following day, DPW clears crosswalks, areas around schools, bus stops, parking meters in the center of town, handicap parking spots, and ramps at roadway intersections.
 - ii. Snow removal near Housing Authority buildings– the property owners of the Housing Authority buildings are responsible for snow removal on their property; the Housing Authority usually has contractors who do the snow removal for them. Additionally, homeowners and private property owners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks and curb cuts on their property.
 - iii. DeAngelis suggested sending out a reminder on the Disability Commission’s social media channels to remind residents about their snow removal responsibilities. Carpenter and Leigh will send out reminders.
 - iv. Rademacher – if a sidewalk has not been shoveled report it to the police, if there is a crosswalk or main area that has not been shoveled – call the DPW at 781-316-3301.
- 5. Elections
 - a. Tabled until next meeting
- 6. Committee Updates
 - a. Parravano – Election Modernization Committee update; Vote by Mail ends at the end of March which means that the April 10th election will not have a vote by mail option.
 - b. Both warrant articles submitted by the Disability Commission are scheduled to be heard on Monday, March 29th at 7:00pm.
- 7. Budget Update
 - a. Remaining budget for the fiscal year is \$19,725; Fiscal year ends June 30th, 2021.
 - b. Raia will reach out to IHCD to find out if they have the capacity to continue to consult on the High School Project.
 - c. Start to think about what the Commission will plan to do with the remainder of the budget for the rest of the fiscal year.
- 8. DEI Updates
 - a. Fair Housing Action Plan – looking for two volunteers from the DC to meet with Harvey and form a small review committee; the first draft will be

submitted to MAPC on the 24th. Devney volunteered to be on the review committee.

- b. Digital Archive Project – a collection with the Robbins Library, for voices of color to share their documented experiences of living, working, or going to school in Arlington.
 - c. Upcoming poetry workshop.
 - d. Make sure to complete ethics training.
 - e. Still looking for a commissioner to volunteer on the Civilian Review Board.
9. Priorities for next meeting's agenda
- a. Traffic Signals
 - b. Elections

Parravano motioned to adjourn meeting, Raia seconded, all in favor: Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm

Commission members not able to attend please email both Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us and Darcy Devney 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.