



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 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), Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen, Liza Molina, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Paul Raia

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

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm by Devney

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve March & April 7th Meeting Minutes
 - a. Devney motioned to table approval of March meeting minutes, motion approved unanimously.

- b. Rademacher motioned to approve April 7th meeting minutes, DeAngelis seconded, motion approved.
- 3. Recognition of Service of Maureen
 - a. Tabled
- 4. Temp Relocation of HP Space, Arl. Hghts
 - a. Ali Carter; Economic Development Coordinator, requested a temporary relocation of a handicap parking space to accommodate a parklet for outdoor seating in a parking area at 1346 – 1360 Mass Ave, Arlington, MA 02476
 - b. Proposal to move parklet eastward to be placed on top of current handicap space at 1346 Mass Ave and reduced from four spaces in length to three spaces.
 - c. Ali Carter will work with Dan Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner to develop a program in collaboration w/ APD to monitor the relocated space to see if the temporary relocation of the parking spot should be permanently relocated since the temporary handicap parking space is closer to an accessible curb cut.
 - i. Will collect data and bring results back to the Disability Commission
 - d. DeAngelis motioned to accept request from Ali Carter on behalf of Roasted Granola to relocate handicap parking space temporarily; Devney seconds, motion passed unanimously.
 - e. Commission is interested in developing an education program on handicap parking to educate the general public
- 5. 17 Chestnut St Variance Request and Vote
 - a. Owner has asked for a waiver and feedback from the Disability Commission
 - b. Owner of the business has made substantial renovations to make the business more accessible; unable to make renovations to basement due to expense
 - c. DeAngelis motioned to write a letter of support to the MAB that the Disability Commission has seen the plans, and understands the owner has made a good faith effort to make the business accessible, Raia seconds. Motion passed 6 commissioners approved motion, 1 commissioner abstained vote, and 1 commissioner not in favor of motion.
- 6. Review IHCD Contract
 - a. Raia gave an update on the High School Building plans; project is moving quickly so we will not hire IHCD for this phase of the project
 - b. Harvey – met with HS Architect and Valerie Fletcher & Meghan Dufresne from IHCD; both parties agreed that due to the speed that the project is moving, IHCD should not move forward with consulting for the project

- c. Valerie Fletcher from IHCD informed Lori Cowles that she may ask for assistance with the project if she has any questions
 - d. IHCD is happy to consult on future projects on behalf of the Disability Commission
7. Retreat Follow-up from Communications Team
- a. Carpenter - wants to create a resource page on the Disability Commission's website; she is working on compiling a list of resources and creating a newsletter
 - b. Anyone who is interested in working on the Communications Team is invited to join
 - c. Cagan-Teuber – Town website is moderately accessible to people with vision impairments but it is not accessible to people whose first language is American Sign Language
 - d. Raia – proposed the commission add an additional resource list for young people with disabilities
8. Budget Update
- a. Budget hasn't changed; current budget is \$19,725.
 - b. Budget needs to be used by the end of June
 - c. ADA Training \$500 per person; any commissioner that is interested may attend
9. Budget Discussion
- a. DeAngelis proposed funding Town projects for accessibility efforts
 - b. Raia proposed making a donation to the Council on Aging as an option
10. DEI Updates
- a. Racial Equity Training for Town Employee's moving into Phase II; in those sessions employees will be learning how to use and apply racial equity tools so that the Town can start to assess town policies and procedures.
 - b. The Core Equity Team is working on building up the preparation steps before creating the equity action plan.
 - c. Town has joined the YWCA of Massachusetts – Harvey has coordinated with most departments to hold have conversations around race and equity.
 - d. Harvey has organized a DEI Coalition with local DEI leaders from different Towns and cities
 - e. Community Conversations will start up again in May
11. Warrant Articles Update
- a. Provide update from emails
12. Priorities for next meeting's agenda
- a. Voting Modernization
 - b. Budget Discussion
 - c. Elections
13. *Comment Period & Closing*

a. No comments

Rademacher motioned to adjourn meeting, DeAngelis seconded, all in favor: Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

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.