



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

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

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Director), Christina Coleman (DEI Administrative Assistant), Ellen Leigh (volunteer, advocate), Nancy Feeney (Resident), Krista Moravec, Sarah Forester

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:03pm by Rademacher

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve May & June Meeting Minutes
 - a. Parravano motioned to approve both minutes, Fallon seconded, motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of Service – Maureen
 - a. Tabled
4. Recognition of Service – Darcy
 - a. Working group will meet to create a Certificate of Appreciation for Darcy
5. Recommendations for Open Space & Recreation Plan
 - a. Commissioners will independently submit their recommendations via survey
 - b. Commission will provide Krista Moravec with formal recommendations in September
6. Discussion on Chair & Vice-Chair Position
 - a. DeAngelis gave a brief description of the role of the Chair & Vice-Chair
 - b. Commission discussed recruiting more volunteers for working groups
 - c. Nancy Feeney offered to volunteer for the commission
 - d. Commission will vote on Chair & Vice-Chair in September
7. Commission on Disability Alliance Representative
 - a. Harvey will attend August meeting
 - b. Carpenter will attend September meeting
8. Transition Planning & Post-Secondary Opportunities for Students with Disabilities
 - a. Almost every school district has a Transition Coordinator
 - b. Transition Programming helps students transition from high school into careers
 - c. Transition plan starts at 14 years old; the plan is very specific and customized for each student's needs
 - d. DeAngelis suggested inviting the Superintendent to a future meeting
9. Working Group Updates
 - a. Rademacher – Broadway Plaza will be under repair this Fall; stores will be accessible and a walkway will be installed, but the plaza itself will be out of commission until at least June or July of 2022
 - b. Parravano - Election Modernization Committee wrote a letter to the Secretary of State regarding voting accessibility – requesting AutoMARK Machine replacements
 - c. Carpenter – Resource list is almost complete; will distribute late August/early September to commission members for feedback
10. DEI & Budget Updates
 - a. Tabled
11. Priorities for next meeting's agenda
 - a. Discussion on increasing commission members
 - b. Recognition of Service Darcy Devney & Maureen St. Hilaire
 - c. Fund for Businesses to Increase Accessibility
 - d. Brainstorm Ideas for the Budget
 - e. Volunteer Outreach
 - f. Emergency Preparedness Sessions
12. Public Comment period
 - a. Sarah Forster (parent/resident) shared an initiative with the commission called “Understanding our Differences”

- i. Program is funded through PTO grants and teaches children about disabilities
- ii. Forster seeking to involve the community and looking for volunteers with disabilities to volunteer for the program
- iii. DeAngelis requested that Sarah Forster coordinate with the director of the program to attend a meeting to describe the program and discuss funding needs.

Raia motioned to adjourn meeting, Fallon seconded, all in favor: Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.