



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 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: Paul Raia (co-chair), Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Parravano (co-chair), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Kerrie Fallon

Guests: Janice Cagan-Teuber, Volunteer; Sarah Forster, Community Member; Ellen Leigh, Volunteer/Advocate

Absent: Cynthia DeAngelis, Liza Molina

Meeting called to order by Parravano at 4:01 PM

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Parravano, 5 min)
2. Approve October Meeting Minutes (Parravano, 5 min)
 - a. Tabled
3. Chair Updates (5 min)
 - a. Emergency Preparedness

- i. Scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th at 4:00 PM, location TBD
 - ii. Evan George, Massachusetts Office of Disability will be holding the training
 - iii. Invite Council on Aging and representative from police and fire department
 - iv. Raia: inquired about if the Emergency Preparedness training is geared towards individuals with disabilities; Leigh confirmed the presentation is specifically for individuals with disabilities
 - b. Monthly Co-Chair Meeting
 - i. Co-Chairs met last week
 - c. Council on Aging Tour
 - i. Construction is behind schedule, looking like the building will be able to be occupied in about another six months
 - ii. Building's layout is okay, but has some concerns with navigation, lighting is good for visually impaired folks – concerned about what money will be available for interior of building
 - 1. Furnishings, colors, layout of signage will make a difference
 - 2. Raia will follow up
 - iii. Would like to organize tour for Disability Commission upon completion of building
 - 1. Provide feedback on the building
- 4. Committee/ Liaison Updates
 - a. Youth - Raia: met with group about educational programs in schools. Training program is very good and geared towards talking about disabilities with other children in class
 - i. Program is very successful and should be expanded as a system-wide program
 - ii. Raia recommended that the program should submit a proposal to Disability Commission; DC could potentially fund so it could be a district-wide program
 - iii. Forester – Met with Program Leaders (Jenni Acosta): program got approval from Schools DEI Director, Margaret Credle Thomas and is very interested in expanding the program district-wide
 - iv. Schools DEI Director is working on asking Arlington Education Funding (AEF) for funding; Disability Commission is open to providing funding as well
 - b. Recreation – Carpenter: there is a new universal design playground at Danehy Park in Cambridge that just opened up, encouraged commissioners to stop by

- i. Acton – new cycling program that allows individuals to rent an adaptive bike or any kind of cycle – they have trikes and hand cycles
 - ii. Joe Connelly has hired a graphic designer to create a spreadsheet of playgrounds in Arlington – gives parents more information (e.g., surface type, fences, etc.)
 - iii. Spypond playground & Parmenter playground renovation – haven't started designing process yet; everyone should complete survey and provide their input
 - iv. Forester would like to inquire about adding a communication board at Spypond & Parmenter playground
 - v. Commission would like to explore funding communication boards and do more research.
- c. Remote Participation
 - i. Survey was just sent out to the general public; it would be great for community members to fill out the survey
 - ii. Researching technology that might be needed to conduct hybrid meetings and exploring what technology is already available throughout meeting locations throughout the Town.
 - iii. Exploring funding and costs of technology
 - iv. Looking into shared-meeting rooms, if one commission isn't using a meeting room, another commission can use the meeting
- d. Transportation
 - i. Kim Charlson, Perkins; Traffic Engineer from Cambridge, and Rachel Stark will be attending our next meeting; come prepared to ask transportation questions
 - ii. Carpenter attended Safe Routes to School meeting at Straton – it would be great to have someone who knows area attend meetings
 - iii. The RIDE has gone back to their old reservations systems
- e. DPW
 - i. Completed replacement of sidewalk on Medford street
 - ii. Broadway Plaza construction start date has been pushed back a bit
 - iii. Winter Communication Notices will be sent out (keeping sidewalks clear, shoveling, etc.)
- f. Election Modernization Committee
 - i. Democracy Live offers online ballot that is arranged by Town Clerk; Arlington did not adopt it for last April, but Julie Brazile has arranged with the Town Manager to have it as a voting option for next Town election

- ii. Request an absentee ballot– Town Clerk arranges set up with Democracy Live; you will then be sent a link and a unique pin code to access the voting system; you can use computer with a screen reader or smartphone and vote- ballot will then get sent to the Town
 - iii. AutoMARK machines still have to be updated
- 5. Priorities & Goals for Upcoming Year (60 min) .
 - a. Tabled
- 6. Priorities for December Meeting (5 min)
 - a. Tabled

Rademacher motioned to adjourn meeting, Raia seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Commission members not able to attend please email dei@town.arlington.ma.us prior to the scheduled meeting.

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