



Arlington Disability Commission DRAFT Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Time: 4:00pm

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: Grace Carpenter (co-chair), Paul Parravano (co-chair), Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Illeana Gatica Herrera, Cynthia DeAngelis

Guests: Jill Harvey (DEI Division), Teresa Marzilli (DEI Division), Tim Ross (DEI Division), Rebecca Gruber (DTG), Ellen Leigh (volunteer), Sarah Forster (volunteer)

Absent: Liza Molina, Paul Raia (co-chair)

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 4:06pm by Parravano

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Approve Draft July Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Rademacher, seconded by Carpenter.
Approved unanimously.
3. Introduction: New ADA Coordinator- Tim Ross

- a. Ross started first week of September. Previously at Boston Children's Hospital, Radiology then Endocrinology, GEMS Program, part of new program, did patient experience work and keeping on top of legislation regarding transgender rights. Then went into brewing. Studied political science, looking to get back into advocacy work, and interested in local government.
 - b. Introduction of commissioners.
4. Massachusetts Office on Disability ADA Improvement Grant
 - a. Ross & Harvey are working with Deputy Town Manager Jim Feeney, to select project to submit next week. Will report back next month on the project submitted.
5. Events
 - a. Recap Town Day
 - i. Very busy, Disability Commission materials were on AHRC table, and shared out. Look ahead to next year to make sure commissioners can be present- choose to discuss in May/June the plans.
 - b. October Farmer's Market 10/5
 - i. DeAngelis shared feedback on session from July, was too hot and didn't feel it was most productive. Harvey shared most recent tabling DEI Division did, and was positive, so discussed some engagement tips. Leigh and Fallon noted a canopy covering could be useful, a new banner, explore more ideas.
 - ii. Carpenter will email the commission with a sign-up list for 10/5
6. Robbin's Library & DTG Social Justice Book Club/Arlington Reads Together
 - a. Rebecca Gruber
 - i. ART Committee strong support of Being Heumann, by Judith Heumann; there are 3 versions of this book- adult, young adult and children's book. Disability Commission could partner and use this platform to share more about their work, how to support in town. Looking for a few commissioners to work in small group to partner on this work. Arlington Reads Together takes place in March.
 - ii. The Social Justice Book Club is through DTG and Robbins Library, a book will be selected to support the ART.
 - iii. Discussion returned to outreach, Marzilli offered to connect with commissioners to work on strategies.
 - iv. DeAngelis motioned to create an Outreach Working Group, within the Commission to help expand the commission's engagement. Fallon seconded, all in favor.
 - b. Display at Robbin's Library
 - i. Carpenter hoping to have display of books at Robbins Library, this is also a part of outreach.
7. Updates (30 min)
 - a. Elections
 - i. Parravano, the Election Modernization Committee is no longer in existence, but communication remains with Town Clerk, and

ongoing discussion about machine updates to ensure all work. But there is a lot of new technology coming for folks with visual impairments. Currently technology at the polls, has been replaced but if anyone hears of issues with polls, locations, etc. please share with Parravano.

- b. Transportation
 - i. Tabled
 - c. DEI
 - i. Equity audit to begin via Opportunity Consulting – to begin in October
 - ii. Each department head to coordinate workshop attendance with department employees – mandatory training – to begin in November (through Jan)
 - iii. Health center in Milton, municipalities of Stoughton, Milton, and others will work together to understand the needs of residents and employees in terms of language capacities
 - d. Recreation
 - i. Carpenter, parking at parks is something of concern and looking in to.
 - ii. Forster working on communication boards, obtained a funded board from Doug Flutie Foundation for the Summer Street Playground. Worked on materials to educate community on the boards, their use and importance.
 - iii. Outreach and Newsletter, DEI Division looking to create account for all three commissions, will have an update next month.
 - e. Remote Participation
 - i. Tabled
 - f. DPW
 - i. Rademacher spoke to two design processes, Mass Ave & Appleton changes or bicycle pedestrian and vehicle; but also design for changes at Chesnutt Street near the municipal parking lot. Fairly disruptive project over the next few months into winter MWRA on Pleasant Street.
 - g. Affordable Housing Trust
 - i. Gruber- Committee is in process of getting feedback, there are public meetings regarding project as well.
 - h. Other Comments
 - i. Carpenter- High School building, currently only two handicap parking spots, not near entrance. This is not final, Harvey has final parking map and info from architects, will bring for next month's meeting.
 - ii. Fallon- when went to vote at Town Hall, both doors were not working, at the time, others did not have issues, Harvey will look in to.
8. Next Meeting Wednesday October 19, 2022 at 4pm
9. Closing

At 5:51pm Motion to adjourn by Rademacher, seconded by Fallon, all in favor.

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.