



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Janice Cagan-Teuber
G Carpenter
Cynthia DeAngelis
Kerrie Fallon
Paul Raia
Michael Rademacher
Kari Sasportas

Commissioners Absent:

Ileana Gatica
Paul Parravano

Guests Present:

Ellen Leigh
Rebecca Gruber
Sarah Forster

Staff Present:

ADA Coordinator: Tim Ross tross@town.arlington.ma.us
DEI Director: Jill Harvey jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us (part of meeting)

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome
2. Ground rules
 - a. [Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. The co-chairs have disabilities that make it hard to deal with Zoom chat/messaging]
3. Guest Introductions
4. Approve Draft October Meeting Minutes
 - a. CD motioned, seconded by PR, unanimous approval
5. Co Chair Election (10 min)
 - a. KS acknowledges being new to the commission but has experience with state government. Wants to focus on policies and procedures, streamlining commission processes. Establish partnerships with other boards and commission but also be a resource for them. Raising the standard on accessibility in Arlington.
 - b. JCT asked if Kari was interested in being a sole chair without a co-chair.
 - c. KS stated she would prefer and

- d. JCT motioned to nominate Kari Sasportas to be the new chair, seconded by MR, unanimous approval.
6. Snow Clearing Update (20 min)
- a. MR stated in general, during a storm event prioritization is on emergency routes and Town sidewalks. DPW responsibilities are sidewalks that abut a Town owned property (Town Hall, school, etc.). Depending on severity of event, will then move to clear street corners where plows had previously piled up snow. The duration of the storm also dictates the phases of plowing. Crews need to be able to go home and rest before starting on the next phase. Different phases of clearing zones, for example a school will have it's immediate surroundings, then 2 blocks out, then further out. Clearings on Mass Ave and Broadway are typically done during overnight to avoid traffic and pedestrians. Contractors are often hired for nighttime shifts to keep up with the clearing. A 12 inch storm would typically take 3 days to fully clear. Will clear cross walks in neighborhoods if they get a call from a resident but otherwise focus on the main streets. Boosted pay and guaranteed earnings for contractors to help attract applicants.
 - b. GC asked if the Town has sidewalk plows, MR stated we have two along with a new piece of equipment that is similar to a motorized broom/brush.
 - c. GC asked if there's an issue who do we call, MR stated if it's an issue with work DPW should be doing to call DPW. If it's a sidewalk in front of a private residence or business residents should call the non-emergency police number.
 - d. GC asked if an HP spot is blocked by a mound of snow who to call? MR stated DPW
 - e. During a storm, DPW tries to keep major roads open and many of the sidewalks
 - f. Big storms, it can take 3 nights to clear the streets and walkways
 - g. DPW is still short-staffed
 - h. Depending on when storm ends effects when major clean-ups can begin
 - i. Cleaning corners often difficult
 - j. Town has different zones (schools) and DPW works in the zones
 - k. Town has 2 sidewalk plows and 1 sidewalk broom
 - l. If issues, contact DPW or non-emergency Police
 - m. If issue regards MBTA, contact them
 - n.
7. Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan (20 minutes)
- a. Helps drive the town's priorities and also commissions & committees
 - b. Town is mandated
 - c. Is the town compliant with ADA?
 - d. Transition – how to go from non-compliant to compliant (400+ pages)
 - e. Tim will send the plan to the members
 - f. The aim is for "Best Practices"
8. Newsletter (5 min)
- a. Grace is looking for a Co-Editor
 - b. Should the approved minutes be included in the Newsletter?
 - c. Maybe a link to the minutes could be in the Newsletter
 - d. Minutes to be posted on the Commission's website
9. Outreach/Volunteers (15 min)
- a. Need more volunteers
 - b. Easier to recruit when we have specific events, etc
 - c. Can use Social Media to recruit

- d. Facebook
 - e. Instagram
 - f. Kari has or will develop protocols for Social Media
 - g. Possibly host events
 - h. Film
 - i. Books
10. Meeting Time Change (10 min)
- a. Should we change our meeting time?
 - b. What suits the Commissioners and staff?
 - c. Tim will check on room availability
11. Grant Update (5 min)
- a. No word regarding grants. Hopefully will hear in December.
12. Subcommittee reports (10 min)
- a. DEI
 - b. DPW
 - c. CODA
 - d. Transportation – new pedestrian flag locations
 - i. Appleton/Rhinecliff
 - ii. Summer/Brattle
 - iii. Park/ Oakland
13. Correspondences (5 min)
14. Public Comment
15. Next meeting Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 4PM
- a. Rademacher moved to Adjourn, Carpenter seconded
 - b. Approved by voice vote
 - c. Meeting Adjourned at 5:35pm
 - d. Next meeting Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 4PM
16. Closing

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.