

# COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## Meeting minutes – January 11, 2023

Wednesday, January 11, 2022, 7pm City Hall, 301 King Street, Chet and Sabra Avery Room 2000

**Members present:** Jeff Pool, Justin Beland, Nawfal Kulam, Michael Kamin, Tom Valluzzi, Rachel Dixon.

**Members excused:** Nathan Toews, Jen Wiser, Sue Picerno.

**Members absent:** Alex Sprague.

**City Staff:** Namooode Khan, (OHR).

**Guests:** The Radt family, Bryant Atkins (Arlington Commission on Persons with Disabilities).

**Guest speakers:** None.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

**Approval of the agenda:** Commissioner Beland made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Kamin, and approved unanimously by the Commission body.

**Approval of November minutes:** Commissioner Kulam made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Kamin, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

**Public Comment:** Bryant Atkins, from the Arlington Persons of Disabilities Commission introduced himself and shared that he is attending the meeting as an observer.

Ms. Radt suggested that the ACPD invite someone from Dot Para Transit Program as she has had a couple of bad experiences with them. Chair Pool shared that Namooode has made an attempt to contact them to invite a representative to the meeting but has not been successful.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Pool provided following updates:

- Working with Jean Kelleher to figure out the logistics of roll out of the stakeholder survey that will drive the strategic planning process for the Commission in 2023, and expects full participation from the Commission.
- The feedback from Robert Pearson regarding parking rules in Old Town Alexandria (January meeting) was shared with the ADA manager, Mike Hatfield in the office of Human Rights. He suggested that ACPD prepare a letter asking questions and offering suggestions to the City Council. This would mean that the ACPD prompts a formal interpretation of current rules and then advocate for any changes to those rules, representing its constituents. Chair Pool shared that he likes the idea and asked any interested volunteers to take this on.
- Looking for a volunteer to run the Legislative Committee, Commissioner Beland said that he will be taking it on. Chair Pool reminded him that it is a committee so he can seek

other members to the Committee. Commissioner Toews volunteered to serve on the committee. Chair Pool reminded them to be mindful of the FOIA rules when conducting meetings.

- Old Town Alexandria Business Accessibility Review Committee has been outsourced to Independence center. Allison, who is no longer on the Commission, is still shepherding the effort with Doris Ray and will keep up updated.
- Chair Pool reminded the Commission that ACPD meetings Meeting interval is every second Wednesday of the month unless it is announced. Please mark those on your calendars.

### **Liaison Report:**

- **Human Rights Commission:** Nothing to report, did not attend the meeting.
- **Commission on Aging:** Commissioner Kamin is no longer on COA.
- **AHAAC:** Commissioner Sprague was absent.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Legislative Committee:** Chair will connect Commissioner Beland with Sarah Taylor.
- **Old Town Alexandria Business Accessibility Review:** Commissioner O'Connell asked if the Independence center is willing to take on the task. Doris Ray said that she has not been able to discuss this with her peers and requested to meet with Commissioner O'Connell.

### **Member reports:**

- Commissioner Dixon shared that misuse of disabled parking in her apartment complex concern remains and will keep the Commission updated.
- Commissioner Valluzzi suggested that the Commission invites Steven Gordon to one of our meetings. Chair Pool shared that Steven was an honoree at the ACPD awards ceremony last year. Namoodé will contact Steven Gordon.
- Commissioner Kamin shared the following piece: [Opinion | Three officers killed a man with Down syndrome. Finally, a reckoning. - The Washington Post](#). He suggested that the Commission invite someone from the Alexandria Police department.
- Commissioner Beland shared about PACT ACT and Marco Clothes allowance for Veterans. He said he hopes to spread the word about the initiatives that City veterans know about that.
- Commissioner Beland talked about **Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act**, which is a bipartisan bill to help veterans replace clothing that is routinely damaged by prosthetics, orthopedic devices, or skin medicines that they need because of active-duty injuries.
- Commissioner Kulam shared about the Duke Street corridor. [Duke Street in Motion: Resident Feedback Shows Preference for Faster Trips - Alexandria Living Magazine](#).
- Many Federal agencies, DCDMV, DC Police have their own definitions of legally blind, and on some instances these definitions are in contrast with the literal medical definition.

He shared that he will look into that and see how he can raise the issue and file a complaint.

Suggestions to potential speakers:

- APD
- PARA DOT TRANSIT
- Steve Gordon,
- Congressman Beyer
- Diamond transportation services
  
- **Adjournment:** Commissioner Kulam made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kamin, and approved unanimously by the Commission body. The meeting concluded at 8:04 PM.