

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting minutes – October 2023

Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2023, at 7 pm.

Location: City Hall, 301 King Street, Chet & Sabra Avery Room 2000

Members present: Jeff Pool, Kristen Creighton, Michael Kamin, Rachel Dixon, Tom Valluzzi, Megan Prince, Lawrence Lewis

Members excused: Robert Ludke, Jen Wiser, Alex Sprague, Nathan Toews

Members absent: Justin Beland

City Staff: Namooode Khan, (OHR).

Guest speakers: None

Public comment: Mr. Radt shared a picture of an accessibility sticker he noticed at a local restaurant, and asked whether the ACPD could use the idea to improve accessibility in the City. It was presumed that the sticker was issued by the Commission several years ago. Namooode will find out and report back to the Commission (action item).

Doris Ray from ECVN gave a brief overview of current public service initiatives by the Center and mentioned advocacy activities this past month.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Kamin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Prince, and approved by the Commission body.

Approval of September Minutes: Commissioner Creighton made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Kamin, and approved by the Commission.

Chair's report: Chair Pool shared that he does not have a report from the executive committee because they have not been able to meet due to Sue's issue with her membership status. He requested the Commission's input on what to do. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Prince made the following motion:

Motion: Accept the runner-up from the last elections (July 2023), Megan Prince, to the role of Vice Chair to serve the remainder of the current term until June 2025. The motion was moved by Commissioner Creighton, seconded by Commissioner Kamin, and approved unanimously by the Commission body.

Chair Pool suggested that Vice-Chair Prince meet with him soon to review her role and responsibilities in this office. Chair Pool shared that the Vice Chair Prince and he will coordinate attending the meeting for Boards and Commissions. They will also reconstitute the executive meetings. Chair Pool read out an email from Sue Picerno regarding a proclamation reading sponsored by the Workforce Development Council.

Committee reports:

- **Legislative committee:** Commissioner Toews was not present to share.
- **Housing committee:** Kristen Creighton shared a summary of the city's Zoning for Housing proposed zoning reforms, which are intended to help the city produce more affordable housing. Currently, 19,000 households in Alexandria pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing. Commissioner Creighton will draft a memo of ACPD support for the proposed reforms, with particular emphasis on the changes to help provide more affordable housing for persons with disabilities and send a draft for the Commission members to review by Friday. There is a Planning Commission Special Public Hearing on Nov. 1 at City Hall, where she will plan to read the memo. Any other commissioners who can attend that meeting are encouraged to do so. The City Council will vote on the proposal on Nov. 28.
Chair Pool advised Commissioner Creighton to engage Commissioner Sprague in her activities.

Motion: To empower Commissioner Creighton under the Housing Committee to draft a letter on the approval of the Chair to submit related to this cause, advocating for the Commission's position prior to the City Council's vote on November 28. The Motion was moved by Vice Chair Prince, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and carried unanimously.

Human Rights Commission: Vice Chair Prince shared a brief report of Human Rights Commission activities.

AHAAC: Commissioner Sprague was not present.

Members Reports:

- Vice Chair Prince thanked everyone for supporting her in her new role. She also reminded everyone to get out to vote.
- Commissioner Lawrence shared that Washington D.C. is sponsoring a "Disability Tech Summit" on October 21.
- Tom shared that his wife attended the forum organized by the Human Rights Commission.
- Commissioner Lawrence shared that a Disability Tech summit is being organized on October 26 in Washington, D. C: It is a free event that aims to bring together disability tech innovators and the community to explore groundbreaking technological innovations that can assist people with disabilities.

Adjournment: Motion: Chair Prince made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Creighton and approved unanimously by the Commission.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.