

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting minutes – February 2023

Via Zoom conference call

Members present: Jeff Pool, Alex Sprague, Jen Wiser, Justin Beland, Sabrina Reilly, Rachel Dixon, Naufal Kulam, Tom Valluzzi, Sue Picerno.

Members excused: Nathan Toews.

Members absent:

City Staff: Namood Khan, (OHR), David Miller (OHR).

Guests: The Radt family.

Guest speakers: Katye North, Division Chief – Mobility Services Transportation and Environmental Services

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

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

Approval of January minutes: Commissioner Wiser made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Beland, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Public Comment: No comments.

Guest Presentation: Katye North gave a presentation on the works of Mobility Services Department, 72-hour parking rule and as Paratransit services.

- 72-hour Rule: The purpose of the rule was to prevent outside vehicles to stay parked for a longer time. Enforcement was complaint based.
- The City Council directed the staff to review the rule, staff conducted research and reviews. In 2017, the City council approved the City code amendment to keep the rule but establish an exemption process: 10-4-8:
 - o No vehicle can remain on the public location for more than 72 hours.
 - o Exemptions allowed: Maximum of two weeks, 5 times a year, vehicle must be parked with 1/8 mile from the residence.

Chair Pool shared that a complaint was shared about the 72hr rule with ACPD. Katye confirmed that this gentleman's case was resolved, and his sign was posted.

- Paratransit: Katye North gave a brief overview of the operations and shared the challenges. Alexandria Dot Program is the city's public transportation service for city

residents who cannot use regular public transportation due to their disability. It is operated by the city. Some the challenges the program is facing is a driver shortage, and a switch to the VIA software.

- Future updates:
 - o Online certification for users.
 - o Using data from VIA for better tracking and policy decisions.
 - o Expanded service to other parts of the Washington Metropolitan area.

Katy North answered questions from the Commission.

Guest comment: Doris Ray from ENDEPENDENCE center thanked the Commission for an informative presentation. She shared that the Center has recently spent some of their grant money persons with disabilities in Alexandria, who are in crisis in terms of housing eviction and other needs.

March 3: An end-of 40th year celebration and reception is planned at the National Rural Cooperative Association's conference center in Arlington from at 5:30 pm.

Endeppendence Center is also conducting Youth transition training.

Chair's Report: Chair Pool provided following updates:

Liaison Report:

- **Human Rights Commission:** Commissioner Beland shared that the LGBTQ+ Task Force gave a presentation at the HRC's meeting, and had a brief update on legislative bills.
- **Commission on Aging:** N/A
- **AHAAC:** Commissioner Sprague will attend the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Legislative Committee:** Commission Beland shared that some updates about recent bills. Doris Ray shared about a bill that is proposing a staffing standard for nursing homes (Bill 1446). Commissioner Sprague shared about some of the other relevant bills: 1461 and 987.
- **Old Town Alexandria Business Accessibility Review:** Commissioner O'Connell asked if the Endeppendence 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 Picerno shared that she had attended an event in which a ACPD was given an acknowledgement for passing the bill on the term "handicap". Sue had some questions on the applications of the Virginia Disability Rights legislature and its relevance compared to the ADA. David Miller explained that the City's ADA

manager, Mike Hatfield should be invited to talk about it in a future meeting (Action item).

- Commissioner Sprague shared that they met with Vice Mayor Jackson to discuss what can be done regarding celebration of Disability Pride month. They are trying to get a proclamation out in June.
- Commissioner Kulam shared that the Duke Street Transit Committee is conducting a safety audit on two crossings with the highest rates of accidents, and he has been visiting those intersections and providing a perspective from a disability angle.
- **Adjournment:** Commissioner Sprague made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reilly and approved unanimously by the Commission body. The meeting concluded at 8:50 PM (EST).