

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting minutes – May 2023

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 7pm.

Members present: Tom Valluzzi (Phone), Jen Wiser, Nathan Toews, Jeff Pool, Sue Picerno, Lawrence Lewis, Meghan Price, Rachel Dixon, Justin Beland (phone), Nawfal Kulam, Michael Kamin.

Members excused: Alex Sprague.

Members absent:

City Staff: Namood Khan, (OHR).

Guests: None

Guest speakers: None

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

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

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

Public Comment: None.

Introduction of new Commissioners: Meghan Prince, Lawrence Lewis.

Chair's report:

- Chair Pool shared that **Alexandria Citizen Corps Council** (an organization that advises and supports the City Council of Alexandria to help Alexandria minimize the impact of disaster through prevention, preparation, and effective response measures), is seeking a volunteer from ACPD to serve on the Committee. Interested Commissioners may submit their names to the Jeff.

Committee Report:

- **ACPD Awards:** Commissioner Wiser shared presented the nominees for both Gerry Bertier Scholarship and the John Duty Collins award. After a brief discussion, commission voted and selected the following nominees:
Gerry Bertier Scholarship Award - Katherine Radt.
John Duty Collins Award: Mac Slover.

- **Nomination Committee:** Commissioner Prince and Commissioner Dixon volunteered; Chair Pool instructed them to prepare a slate for the next meeting.
- **Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Beland shared that the biggest accomplishment for the Commission has been to change the word “handicap” from the Virginia Code.

Liaison Report:

- Seeking a volunteer to serve as ACPD liaison on the Human Rights Commission: Commissioner Prince volunteered.
- **AHAAC:** Commissioner Sprague was not present.

Member report:

- Commissioner Dixon shared that the City of Alexandria has created a new tool to combat inequities, the tool also included accessibility. Chair Pool suggested Commission should invite someone from the office to speak to the Commission.
- Nawfal Kulam shared update from the Duke Street Transit Program.
- Kamin shared concern about accessibility issue at the Mall , talked to Sherriff Casey and shared about his interaction with Sheriff’s force and interaction with people with disabilities.

Adjournment: Commissioner Kulam made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Prince, and approved unanimously by the Commission body. The meeting concluded at 8:40 PM.