

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

7:00 P.M., City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2000
Chet and Sabra Avery Room

Members Present

Kristen Creighton (participated by conference call)
Rachel Dixon
Caitlin Fitzsimmons
Jacob Griffin
Lawrence Lewis
Bob Ludke
Deanne McNulty (participated by conference call)
Jeff Pool, Chair
Megan Prince, Vice Chair
Alex Radt
Alex Sprague

City Staff Present

Namoode Khan, Investigator
David Miller, Acting Director

Members Excused

Huayra Forster
Tom Valluzzi
Robbi Woodson

Members Absent

Guest speakers

Owen Albrecht, Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES), DOT Paratransit Manager
Amani Moses, Marketing & Customer Support Specialist, DASH
Angela Brown, Training Instructor, DASH

1. **Call to Order/Introductions by Chair Pool**

Chair Pool called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion by Chair Pool, seconded by Commissioner Sprague, the Agenda was approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the August Meeting**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sprague, seconded by Commissioner Griffin, the August minutes were approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

4. **Guest Presentation DASH Quantum Pilot**

Amani Moses escorted Commissioners to a DASH Quantum Pilot bus parked in front of 301 King street. The bus was outfitted with an automatic mobility device securement system. The system allows for wheelchair passengers to secure themselves. The device takes approximately 25 seconds to automatically secure the wheelchair user. Angela Brown, DASH Trainor, and Ms. Moses gave a presentation and answered Commissioners' questions. Concerns were raised regarding the device being rear facing. The forward-facing manual device is still an option but takes much longer to secure the passenger and must be done by

the driver. A QR code was provided to provide comments, and concerns can be voiced by phone at: 703.746.DASH.

5. **Guest Presentation – DOT Paratransit**

Owen Albrecht, the new City Paratransit Manager introduced himself and said he manages the City’s paratransit services, which is mandated, under the ADA, for people who are unable to ride fixed-routed public transit due to a disability. Mr. Albrecht gave a description of his position and took questions about the program from Commissioners. Commissioners raised concerns with regard to curb-to-curb pickups, third-party subcontractors, and log wait times. Mr. Albrecht explained the shared ride service and timeframe for trips. He discussed challenges with same-day trip scheduling and the need for reliable wheelchair-accessible vehicles, and better communication. Mr. Albrecht said that he would like to come back to the Commission later in the year. Commission suggested implementation of text notifications for riders when their ride arrives.

6. **Chair’s Report**

Chair Pool stated that it is crunch time to finish the annual report. He will reach out to Vice Chair Prince to complete the task.

7. **OHR Staff Report**

David explained that the Commission has an opportunity to weigh in on the City’s legislative packet. David will send the guidance email to Chair Pool. Submissions are received online via a link, and the submission due date for Boards and Commissions is **October 4, 2024**.

David announced that the Office will have an information table at the City Library’s Black Family Reunion event on September 14, 2024, at 717 Queen Street from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

8. **Committee Reports**

- **Legislative Committee:** Follow up with Kristen Creighton as she had expressed interest.
- **Housing Committee:** None
- **Housing Affordability Committee:** None
- **Accessibility-Friendly Businesses Committee:** None
- **Human Rights Commission:** Nothing to report
- **AHAAC:** Nothing to report

9. **Member Report**

- Commissioner Ludke discussed the transfer of funds to the YMCA for swim lessons for persons with disabilities. The lessons will start in November, and the YMCA will use the curriculum for accessibility. Commission members expressed an interest in collaborating with the YMCA and providing feedback. Commissioner Ludke mentioned the need for specialized training for swim instructors and the potential for ACPD members to become certified instructors.
- Commissioner Prince – Expressed interest in coming to the Black Family Reunion to assist with OHR’s table. Would like to get ACPD’s own information brochure. Put that on the agenda for next meeting.

- Commissioner Sprague –
- Commissioner Griffin – feedback from the community
- Commissioner Radt shared about Voting disability rights month. Asked about the visit to Minnie Howard. All-gender bathrooms (Alex Radt).
- Commissioner Dixon said that that is in progress.
- Commissioner Dixon shared that she volunteers for Senior Services, and she has taken training, and she is now an ambassador.
- Commissioner Fitzsimmons – Wants to explore a Proclamation for developmental disability month, which is in April 2025. She met up with Barbara Paulson. Requested that the Commission connect with her to learn about what types of services the office has. Wants to invite City-staff to attend a commission meeting. David asked when they would like to invite Barbara.

10. **Action Item**

David will contact Barbara Paulson, Director, Center for Children and Families to determine a date that she or her designee can present to the commission on Intellectual Developmental Disabilities.

11. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Sprague motioned to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chair Prince. All Commissioners present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024.