

# **ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025**

7:00 P.M., Virtual Meeting

## **Members Present**

Megan Prince, Chair  
Alex Sprague, Vice Chair  
Alex Radt  
Deane McNulty  
Huayra Forster  
Thomas Valluzzi  
Robert Ludke  
Shannon Loelius  
Donna Turnage Spencer

## **Members Excused**

Rachel Dixon  
Howard Weiss

## **Members Unexcused**

Robbi Woodson  
Caitlin Fitzsimmons

## **City Staff Present**

Delante Wade

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Prince called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **2. Approval of Agenda/ Rearrangement of the Meeting Schedule**

Upon a motion by Chair Prince and seconded by Commissioner Forster, the Agenda and rearrangement of the Meeting Schedule was approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of the September Meeting**

Commissioner Loelius moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Vice Chair Sprague. All Commissioners present voted aye.

### **4. Member Report**

**Commissioner Radt:** None

**Commissioner Sprague:** Because they were successful at being able to call for a new fire code, they are now working on getting the word “disorder” removed from autism spectrum. Working with Delegate Bennett-Parker on this matter, she hasn’t answered yet. Also, they went to the Physical Therapy Association to listen to JBG Smith’s update on the Potomac Yard project and to gather any information regarding sensory rooms, sensory friendly alarm systems and ADA accessibility. JBG Smith is possibly meeting with the City Council in December. Would like to have JBG Smith come and present at ACPD’s November meeting.

**Commissioner Forster:** Over the past month, I have continued correspondence with several of the staff at the George Mason University, Disability Services Office regarding accessibility, technology accommodations, and inclusive communication practices. I have been identifying how these needs intersect with cultural and disability rights frameworks, especially within campus environments. As a part of this, I've observed that while some areas of the University are responsive to student accommodations requests, there remain gaps in awareness about cultural and sensory accommodations, particularly for Native students. My work with the ACPD has encouraged me to view these experiences through a systemic lens and enabled me to recognize the overlap between cultural, health, and education access. I hope to use this insight to inform future ACPD discussions on inclusive policy development, interdepartmental training, and respectful accommodation processes for all communities in the Northern Virginia region.

**Commissioner Loelius:** None

**Commissioner Valluzzi:** Called Alex 311 and notified them that Van Dorn Plaza is inaccessible to individuals with disabilities. After calling Alex 311, he stated that the curb cut was leveled, and it is much more maneuverable for individuals with disabilities. I am very happy that matter was resolved. Additionally, it looks like the new INOVA Hospital is finally going up and would like to get representatives from the hospital to come and speak at one of the ACPD meetings.

**Commissioner McNulty:** Had a meeting with Volunteer Alexandria, and they are very interested in working with adults with disabilities for multiple reasons. They're aware of the potential requirements for anyone receiving Medicaid to provide proof that they are working 20 hours a week or volunteering in order to keep their funding. Hopefully it won't actually ever go through, but there's a lot of people who are talking about it. The cool thing is, they have various kinds of volunteer work you could do. So, it's just scheduling and finding out how to help people understand or know what's available. It could be both social or job skills, as well as anything to help people learn and become more involved in the community and be productive. They're willing and able to work with people with disabilities and trying to find better ways to make that happen. Also, the group has been invited by Visit Alexandria to a meeting being held at Virginia Tech and Tourism on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm to discuss what they can do to help individuals with medical needs.

### **Chair's Report**

**Chair Prince:** None

**Committee Reports:** None

**Executive Committee:** None

**Human Rights Commission:** Did not have a quorum last month. Heard from two members of the community that were discussing ways that the Human Rights Commission could support citizens who have a fear of ICE intervention, especially in their workplace. Provided the citizens with contact information for future communications. The HRC is trying to give the citizens the support they need, not the support that makes the HRC feel better. Currently in the investigation stage with this matter. Spoke with someone from ARHA about some issues that are happening in a couple of the buildings and will follow up with that discussion at a later date. Wasn't able to take any action because they didn't have a quorum. Was notified that ARHA has already submitted their Legislative Package.

### **Action Items**

**Boards, Commissions, and Committee Appointments:** Delante reminded the Commission that Commissioners should be aware of their term end dates and be sure to reapply at least 30 days before the end of their terms. Chair Prince stated that going forward, she would like a list to be presented at each meeting notifying the Commission whose terms are approaching their end date.

**Boards, Committees and Commissions FY 2026 Budget Priorities:** Delante requested that the Commission move forward with discussing the budget priorities that the Commission feels will best benefit residents of Alexandria. Collectively the Commission decided that it was in the best interest to support increased Dash funding (bus stop seating/shelter and wheelchair restraint system); therapeutic recreation funding for the City's Out of School Time Program; Alexandria's Early Intervention Program and better food delivery options for individuals with mobility disabilities. Commissioner McNulty stated that the Head Start program has been cut back on because of federal cuts. Early childhood through ACPD has been the best bet for finding individuals who could benefit from early childhood learning. Chair Prince motioned to approve budget priorities, seconded by Commissioner Loelius. All Commissioners present voted aye.

**Legislative Package:** Package was submitted based off of comments that the ACPD discussed during the September meeting. Everything that was discussed was included in the package. The ACPD still has access to Wendy Ginsberg and if anyone has questions or comments, feel free to reach out to her. The highlights of the proposal were to support legislation that codifies ADA language into state law. Support legislation that facilitates the ability of disabled Virginia citizens to access voting locations and exercise their right to vote. Support legislation regarding insurance that protects citizens with pre-existing conditions. Recommend strict vaccination requirements for Virginia schools. Recommend funding for long-term care facilities for individuals with disabilities. Recommend a repeal or reversal of the Virginia Sterilization Act of 1924. Support legislation that requires schools to come up with comprehensive safety plans for evacuation of disabled students during emergencies and requires teacher and staff to be acutely aware of said plan and should be included within a 504 plan. Protecting ADA housing requirements, especially within affordable housing construction.

**Public Outreach Discussion:** Commissioner Radt stated that the pamphlet that Delante created was very good overall but did suggest that stronger wording would help make the document clearer. Commissioner Radt also suggested that a FAQ sheet would be another source of information that could be used for public outreach.

**Adjournment:** Vice Chair Sprague motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McNulty. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025, and it will be held at 7:00 pm, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room.