

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

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

Members Present

Megan Prince, Chair
Alex Sprague, Vice Chair
Alex Radt
Rachel Dixon
Howard Weiss
Thomas Valluzzi
Megan Prince
Shannon Loelius
Huayra Forster

Members Excused

Deanne McNulty
Robbi Woodson

Members Unexcused

Caitlin Fitzsimmons
Robert Ludke
Lawrence Lewis
Donna Spencer

City Staff Present

Delante Wade
Michael Swidrak

1. Call to Order/Introductions by Chair Prince

Vice Chair, Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, guest from the National Park Service (Maureen Joseph, Susan Hall and Justine Bello) and presenters from the HRP Group (Michelle Chang, Mary Catherine Gibbs, and Lee Dwyer).

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes of the July Minutes Meeting

Vice Chair Sprague made a suggested amendment, based on the fact that Commissioner Forster's name was listed in the roll call twice. Upon a motion by Vice Chair Sprague, seconded by Commissioner Loelius, the July minutes were approved as amended. All Commissioners present voted aye.

4. Public Comment

None

5. **Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Sprague stated that, regarding their pursuit to force RFK Jr.'s resignation, they have been getting increased number of calls in response to RFK Jr.'s embarrassing testimony in front of Congress.

Vice Chair Sprague stated that they recently spoke with Delegate Bennett-Parker, and she is working on getting a new fire code which would provide sensory relief for residents who don't want to be around when the fire alarms are being tested.

On behalf of Chair Prince, Vice Chair Sprague spoke about how they have been keeping track of ADA Compliant Affordable Housing. Vice Chair Sprague has been keeping track of whether the development has wheelchair accessibles and sensory friendly alarms. It's been too hard to keep track of accessibility issues because their group barely conducts community events. The group is planning another event on 9/24/25 at the American Physical Therapy Association at 7 pm. Will email Delante the information and Delante will email to the Commission.

6. **Guest Speaker(s)**

Mt. Vernon Trail Proposed Non-Motorized Boat Launch

Michelle Chang, Vice President of Mixed-Use Development, HRP Group
Siobhan Steen, Director of Mixed-Use Development, HRP Group
Mary Catherine Gibbs, Land Use General Counsel, HRP Group
Simon Beard, Landscape Architect, OJB

A presentation was given by the HRP Group about the proposed design of the "Publicly Accessible Open Space" improvement plan, both on the Waterfront and the Rail Corridor, that is associated with the redevelopment of the Potomac River Generating Station (power plant). The redevelopment plans to transform the 18-acre waterfront property into a mixed-use district with residential, commercial and public green spaces. The presentation addressed the design goals which were to: 1) Create a mixed-use, people centric environment thoughtfully connected to Old Town North; 2) Expand equitable access to Alexandria's waterfront; 3) Create places for a variety of activities seamlessly connecting them to neighboring parks; and 4) Pursuing sustainable and resilient strategies through a multi-pronged approach. Members of the Commission were provided with a copy of the presentation.

7. **Committee Reports**

- **Executive Committee:** None
- **Legislative Committee:** None
- **Housing Committee:** None

- **Housing Affordability Committee:** None
- **Accessibility-Friendly Businesses Committee:** Commissioner Radt stated that Old Town Books recently purchased a portable ramp and a doorbell. When an individual with a disability presses the doorbell, staff members will bring the ramp out to provide access to the facility. Believe that this accommodation is something that other businesses should adopt.
- **Board of Architectural Review:** Commissioner Radt has the contact information for the Board of Architectural Review if anyone needs to contact the Board.
- **Human Rights Commission:** Did not meet in August.

8. Action Items

- **Legislative Package for the 2026 Virginia General Assembly Session:** Vice Chair Sprague met with Delegate Bennett-Parker and Senator Saddam Salim regarding the legislative package. Chair Prince's three priorities for the legislative package are: 1) solidifying protections that the ADA has in VA law; 2) increasing requirements for ADA affordable housing; and 3) push for vaccination requirements for schools to protect the immunocompromised. Other topics include, a law requiring a 48-hour notice of fire alarm testing; IEP's include specific plans for evacuation in case of an emergency for students with 504's; remove requirement for DMV's to require individuals with autism to provide documentation; stop horse sterilization for individuals with disabilities; voting accommodations for individuals with disabilities; American Care Act and the provision for not having pre-existing conditions; long term care for individuals with disabilities. Contact Wendy Ginsberg if anyone has any suggestions or comments regarding the legislative package.
- **ACPD Brochure- "Businesses Who Occupy Historic Properties:"** Delante distributed brochures that he created that provide information about the legal requirements for "Virginia Businesses who Occupy Historic Properties." Request that each Commissioner review the brochure and make suggestions, edits, etc. Will discuss potential changes at next meeting.

9. Member Report

- **Chair Prince:** Attended the "All Commission" meeting. This meeting is held once every three years and is attended by all Chairs of all Boards and Commissions. Primary discussion of the meeting was about current laws that may be affecting the city. Will forward the presentation to the Commission.
- **Commissioner Forster:** None

- **Commissioner Valluzzi:** None
- **Commissioner Spencer:** Did not respond to Vice Chair's request for member report.
- **Commissioner Weiss:** None
- **Commissioner Dixon:** None
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- **Commissioner Loelius:** None
- **Commissioner Radt:** Happy Disability Voting Rights Week. This is an official celebration that the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) recognizes every year. For more information visit <https://www.aapd.com/disability-voting-rights-week/>.
- **Vice Chair Sprague:** This is the last committee meeting before early voting starts in VA (9/19/25). Early voting lasts for 45 days.

10. **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Sprague motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dixon. All Commissioners present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm, via Zoom platform.