

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Full
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- David E. Simon, Chair, At-Large
- Benjamin Gibbs, Vice-Chair, At-Large
- Brandis Ruise, Secretary, Hunter Mill District (attended virtually)
- Deborah Hammer, Mount Vernon District
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Michael Ritter, Springfield District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Bryan Scrafford, Sully District
- Robin Rinearson O.D., Mason District
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Diane Monnig, Fairfax City
- Christie Garton, At-Large-

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District (Excused)
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District (Excused)
- Vacancy, Providence

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Alma Hernandez (DFS staff), Ann Kim (DFS staff), Michael Davis (Land Development), Julianne Mayer (Land Development), William Mayland (Land Development), Austin Gastrell (Land Development), and Moriah Kitaeff (Department of Emergency Management), Eileen McCartin (NVRC, member of the public).

The board met virtually and provided members of the public the opportunity to access the meeting via Zoom. A quorum was present with members stating they were calling from home and within their districts.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of February 2024 Minutes: A motion to approve the February minutes was made, seconded, and approved.
3. Public Comment: Pam Gannon, board member of Northern VA Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC), made an appeal for the FA-DSB to advocate for individuals with hearing loss during their public testimony in April. She also provided some informational brochures about the organization.
4. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

Meeting Items:

1. Parking Reimagined Update: Michael Davis, Land Development Services

- Michael provided a Parking Reimagined update to the FA-DSB. He discussed a survey that the agency had designed specifically regarding accessible parking. The survey will be open through April 15th and Land Development Services hopes to have a draft recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by May 2024, which they will present at the Board of Supervisors' July meeting. He stated he'd like to, at their May meeting, present to the FA-DSB with results of the survey, as well as draft recommendations so that the FA-DSB can be taken into account before recommendations are finalized. So far, approximately 500 data points have already been gathered.
- Community members are encouraged to complete the survey. There are no survey questions related to enforcement issues, although they are exploring the nuts and bolts of the ordinance (e.g., is it easier to locate accessible parking in certain areas more than others?). FA-DSB members are encouraged to complete the survey and distribute it broadly.

2. FY 2025 Advertised Budget Presentation: Claudia Vila & Ann Kim, Department of Family Services, Adult & Aging Division

- Claudia and Ann provided a brief overview of the FY 2025 Advertised Budget, with an emphasis on any additions or reductions to services for individuals with disabilities. Materials presented are included in the board packet.
- A board discussion ensued around which items to highlight during the April hearings. Mike expressed concerns around increasing property taxes and how this affects people with disabilities, who are often living on fixed incomes. The large majority of health and human services are funded through taxes, so it is a difficult balance. Bryan inquired into the opportunity for the FA-DSB to advocate for tax relief at the state level. A future initiative focused on budget-related advocacy efforts was considered.
- The FA-DSB decided to provide testimony around the following items:
 - Support for the new positions created within Office of Elections.
 - Support for the monies allocated to FASTRAN, TOPS, and Connector, but request support for increased and more frequent weekend service.
 - Support the new positions allocated to Department of Housing, while stressing the continued for affordable, accessible, and integrated housing.

3. Establish Nominations Committee

- Deborah and Robin volunteered to be the Ad Hoc Nominations Committee members again this year.

4. Board Initiatives – FY 2024:

- Increased Employment by County Government of People with Disabilities (Diane and Debbie): Debbie and Diane provided the update that they've recently met with Claudia and

Ann who assisted them with creating a list of local jurisdictions who have a similar county position dedicated to recruiting individuals with disabilities. They subsequently spoke with District Supervisor Walkinshaw and discussed the potential of this future initiative. Mike stated that Supervisor Herrity also may be interested in exploring employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

- Community Forums/SHAPE Partnership (Ben and Brandis): Ben and Brandis met with the staff liaisons from Commission on Aging (COA) and the SHAPE Initiative to identify potential areas of overlap. Ben stated that the COA is open to collaboration on a few forums specifically targeting older adults with disabilities, and asked how the FA-DSB had previously conducted and advertised their forums. Deborah stated that previous forums were held throughout the various districts at community centers and/or libraries. She noted that these forums were not well attended, although they were advertised in different local newsletters and the Disability Rights and Resources' e-newsletter. The people who attended tended to have specific issues in mind to discuss, rather than broader concerns about what is affecting the community at large.

Continuing Items of Interest:

- Ensure all county buildings and facilities meet ADA requirements (Robin and Christie): Robin stated that she has not received a response from Office of Human Rights and will follow up again.
- Draft of letter to town council representatives (Ben and Deborah): Ben and Deborah decided to draft a letter which would subsequently be sent to town council representatives. The FA-DSB reviewed the letter and provided some preliminary feedback.

5. General Updates: None.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Michael Davis provided a brief update regarding Parking Reimagined and said that the Board of Supervisors is interested in their agency looking at the proposed accessible parking component. They will be looking into this matter in the coming months and reporting back to the Board of Supervisors. David presented a few slides on the research he has conducted regarding accessible parking under this new ordinance and suggested that Fairfax County should enact a component to the ordinance that goes above and beyond the current federal standard on accessible parking. He mentioned that Anchorage, Alaska developed an ordinance that might be worth looking at and possibly modeling.

Ben stated that there should be a distinction made between accessible spots and van-accessible spots. Mike agreed with that statement. David noted there was a distinction that had been made in the federal guidelines, as well as the Anchorage ordinance; also it was noted that van accessible spots are not restricted to folks with accessibility needs requiring ramps.

Bryan supported the importance of distinguishing between van accessible spots and standard accessible spots; noting it is especially difficult to locate a van accessible spot in larger parking lots (e.g., 50-100 spots).

David asked that Michael Davis and Land Development use the FA-DSB as a future resource as they continue the work on this issue, and that there would be ongoing coordination and updates.

1. Martha Glennan Awards Ceremony: Nominees/Award Recipients- Deborah Hammer & Robin Rinearson:

Deborah provided a report on this year's nominations. Three nominees were chosen for their advocacy and commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for Fairfax County Residents with disabilities. This year's winners are as follow:

1. University Mall & Cinema Arts Theater (The organization provides employment and internship opportunities to youth and adults with disabilities, accessible seating, and connecting with community members),
2. Cheryl Johnson (Arc of Northern Virginia – has worked in the disability community for several years, providing educational workshops, Integrated Dental Service Initiative – teaches providers how to work with individuals with disabilities, and serves on several boards, and
3. Jeremy Smith (self-advocate, young adult, has organized Walk for Hearing event, mentors others through Deaf Plus program, been involved with various organizations).

A motion was put forth to accept nominees. It was seconded and approved.

2. FA-DSB Bylaws Update:

Claudia provided the update that the FA-DSB bylaws will likely be considered by the Board of Supervisors at their next board meeting, taking place November 21, 2023.

3. Shape & Community Forums:

Claudia explained that Shape is a strategic plan in the County that is currently being implemented to address issues/concerns related to older adults by the Commission on Aging. Claudia is part of a SHAPE workgroup that is interested in possibly

partnering with the FA-DSB on their community forums. Claudia asked if the FA-DSB would be interested in exploring a potential collaboration and/or a sharing of information with the Commission on Aging. Ben thought it was a great idea and offered to assist.

David noted, on a separate note, that he had spoken with Cassidy Donaghy, who works for the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, and she'd be happy to share any FA-DSB materials that the board wants. David will share her contact information with Ben.

4. FA-DSB Logo:

Mike shared three variations of the existing FA-DSB logo and stated he had modernized it a bit and added some color. The board would like the option to use any of the three variations in the future. Claudia stated that she needed to confirm the next steps regarding county approval, if any, and would update at a future meeting.

Deborah proposed a motion to accept all three logos and use them in the future. It was seconded and approved.

5. Board Initiatives – FY 2024:

Increased Housing for Residents with Disabilities: Courtney stated that One University and Dominion West were two complexes that currently had open waiting lists and wondered if that could be advertised via Access Fairfax. Claudia asked if those two complexes were county owned and Courtney was unsure. She was going to look into it and provide Claudia with that information. Courtney also introduced conversation regarding advocacy efforts to promote preferential leasing for individuals with disabilities and called for advocacy around greater transparency when it comes to waiting list preferences with county-owned affordable housing. Claudia would connect Courtney with someone within the Department of Housing so that Courtney could further look into it and report back at the February meeting.

Increased Employment by County Government of People with Disabilities: Debbie stated she and Diane had held several conversations with some Supervisors and would have a more detailed update in the future.

Accessibility of County Websites: Debbie suggested moving this initiative under "Continuing Items of Interest."

Accessibility Education for Area Businesses: Deborah stated that a letter had been sent to local newspapers, such as Fairfax Times, and that she would check to see if it ended up being published by the various newspapers.

Accessible Voting Spaces: Lindsay stated that Office of Elections has been a great partner and has not only advertised the flyer created by the FA-DSB on their site, but also included two iterations of additional voting resources for persons with disabilities. They also invited Ben and Lindsay to provide a presentation at their Page Program back in September. Ben and Lindsay had the opportunity to train over 200 high school students. Courtney asked for any specific updates regarding curbside voting measures in the County, as she still witnessed some of the issues she previously expressed experiencing. Lindsay asked that she write a summary of her experience and share it with Ben.

Training Other Boards: Brandis stated that she would be interested in partnering with the Commission on Aging regarding community forums and that it would be great if

Ben were able to join. Claudia asked if she wanted to create a separate initiative, rather than keep that future work under "Training Other Boards," and Brandis agreed.

Outreach to Parents and Families: Courtney identified that she wants to have a listening session with parents, families, and students to ascertain their perspectives and needs. Deborah volunteered to join her initiative to assist. Claudia will assist with brainstorming ways to reword that initiative.

Supporting Building Code and Zoning Ordinance Compliance with ADA Title III: David stated that initiative was concluded and that he'd like to remove it from the list.

6. General Updates:

None.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.