**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

**FA-DSB Members in Attendance:**

* Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
* Chester Freedenthal, Vice-Chair, Lee District
* Judith Turcott, Secretary, Fairfax City
* Tom Bash, At-Large
* Andrew Magill, At-Large
* Doris Ray, At-Large
* Melandee Canaday-Jones, At-Large
* Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
* Brandis Ruise, Hunter Mill District
* Mary Pauline Jones, Springfield District
* Sailesh Panchang, Sully District

**FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:**

* Vacant, City of Falls Church
* Vacant, Mason District
* Vacant, Providence District

**DSB Support Staff:** Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Michael Becketts (DFS Director), Courtney Arroyo (OEM), Rose Asuquo (Library Access Services), ASL interpreter(s).

The board conducted a wholly electronic meeting because the COVID -19 pandemic made it unsafe to physically assemble a quorum in one location or to have the public present.

Board members and staff support accessed the meeting via the Zoom web platform and/or Zoom (ATT) phone access.

All board members stated calling from their home district with the exception of Melandee Jones, who called in from Wilmington, North Carolina.

Members of the public accessed the meeting via an AT&T call line.

**Minutes and Agenda:**

1. **Call to Order.** 7 p.m. Roll call was done to establish that a quorum was present and that all could hear. A script was shared about the state of emergency necessitating a virtual meeting. The meeting was visually recorded due to initial difficulties with the AT&T line. The meeting was also recorded via the AT&T line.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Proposed by Deborah, it was seconded.
3. **Approval of Previous (March 2021) Minutes.** Minutes were approved, proposed by Deborah, it was seconded. Chester asked that all board vacancies be listed in the minutes moving forward under the absences section.
4. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
5. **Meeting Items:**
* **Welcome New Board Member, Brandis Ruise**

Brandis introduced herself and stated that she was excited that she was on the board.

* **Review of Meeting Expectations**

Deborah reviewed the expectations enumerated in the Meeting Expectations Document.

* **Groundwater Approach: Building a Practical Understanding of Structural Racism- Michael Becketts, DFS Director**

Director Becketts stated that he wanted to be present at the DSB meeting to make himself available to address any questions members may have after attending training. He stated that two frequently asked questions post-training are 1. Presenters were just giving information- what am I to do the information? Director Becketts stated that the purpose of the training is to get the conversation going and address where people are starting the journey. The second question he often gets is 2. Why do we lead with race? He stated that while we lead with race, we do not exclude other areas of marginalization. The training provides an opportunity for people to discover the intersection between race and all other areas of a person. He posed the question of how DSB might use the information presented within the board.

Tom Bash shared his thoughts about One Fairfax and feels that people with disabilities should be represented more prominently. He requests a Groundwater 2 that might highlight people with disabilities. Director Becketts stated he would commit to looking at how he might bring experts to speak to the area of disabilities. Doris Ray, who attended the Groundwater presentation, was appreciative of the program and the accommodations she received. She would like some additional information about how Boards and Commissions might advise the county. Doris joined Tom in his suggestion to further support the disability community. Doris stated she has some connections to people who may be able to help consult with this initiative. Brandis had wanted to see if the board initiatives might connect with data to support connections with initiatives. Director Becketts stated that we might start asking some more questions about what we know and what we need to know. Doris stated that this might require further future discussion.

Doris brought up an issue she had recently experienced while trying to complete the One Fairfax Policy Acknowledgement Form. She stated that she was not able to access the document and that it seems to be inaccessible. She filed a concern regarding this issue. Director Becketts stated that he would look at this issue and refer it back to the Equity Office. He stated that he would continue to work with Claudia on the issues discussed.

* **Continuation of Virtual Board Meetings- Guidance**

Claudia stated that the board of supervisors will be transitioning back to in-person meetings and that this might be something the DSB could think about in the future. She stated that for now, the recommendation is that the DSB continue to meet virtually. A discussion about pros and cons about meeting in person vs. virtually was discussed. Claudia stated that Fairfax County might be sending out guidance on virtual meetings in the future, but that she has no direct knowledge of if or when that might come out. It was agreed that a hybrid model might be the strongest option for the DSB in the future. Deborah brought up the issue of ensuring a quorum in a hybrid model, as well as whether members’ votes who are calling in would count.

* **FY 2022 Nominations Committee**

Mary Pauline has not received any nominations for people who are interested in the Chair or Vice Chair positions at this time. Judith has agreed to continue as secretary. Chester volunteered to stay on as vice-chair until someone stepped into the chair and vice chair positions. The discussion evolved into whether co-chairs might be an option, but no conclusion was reached.

Doris asked if the board meets in July and August. She was told the DSB does not meet during those months. She then motioned to set aside the bylaws and reschedule/postpone the release of the slate until June and vote on the slate in September. The motion was seconded and passed.

* **DSB Bylaws**

Chester presented the by-laws and stated that they are now ready to be sent to the County Attorney’s Office. He asked that a motion be passed. He explained that the bylaws would then be sent back to the DSB for final approval after legal review. Chester explained that the document he used is a standard template that all BACs are being asked to use. Doris seconded for the purpose of discussion. Sailesh stated that we should include all people with disabilities not just physical and sensory. Doris stated that the history behind the creation of DSBs were so that this group of individuals, who did not have representation, would be recognized. She feels comfortable with the bylaws including “people with disabilities”. Deborah expressed that not all persons with I/DD diagnosis were assisted by the CSB and that she believed they should be represented. She stated that she wanted to make sure all people with disabilities are served. Claudia will provide feedback on the bylaws from the county attorney once she receives them. She also mentioned that she was unsure if the DSB had the authority to change the population the board serves, but that she can check with the County Attorney’s Office. She also stated that one thing to note is that changing the scope of who the board serves might also change some of the legislative priorities the DSB has traditionally advocated for, such as the state mandate included every year in the Human Services Issue paper. MaryPauline asked if other BACs that DSB partners with on these issues should be consulted prior to a vote on the bylaws, which include the broader definition of the population the board would serve. Chester expressed frustration at the delay and withdrew his motion or to continue working on the bylaws. He stated that he was excusing himself from the rest of the meeting and exited the call. This agenda item has subsequently tabled.

* **DSB Mission Statement- Vote**

Deborah tabled this item for the next board meeting.

* **Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) and Affordable Housing A Committee (AHAC) Vacancies**

Deborah explained that both committees asked that Cookie Blitz continue on as a DSB liaison for the sake of continuity, for the time being. Doris originally volunteered to serve on the committees, but stated she had no objection to having Cookie serve. Deborah motioned that Cookie be the liaison to the CCFAC and the motion was approved. Cookie will also be the liaison to the AHAC while it undergoes restructuring.

* **Committee and Liaison Reports**

Tabled until the June meeting.

* **Additional Business**

There was no additional business reported.

8:58 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Deborah.