

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board Full  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 13, 2024**

**FA-DSB Members in Attendance:**

- David E. Simon, Chair, At-Large
- Jamie Gibbs, Vice-Chair, At-Large
- Brandis Ruise, Secretary, Hunter Mill District
- 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
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Christie Garton, At-Large (attended virtually)

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

- Sarah Graham Taylor, Franconia District (Excused)
- Vacancy, Providence

**Others Present:** Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Ashley-Ann Waaldijk (DFS staff), Ann Kim (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (DFS staff), Moriah Kitaeff (Department of Emergency Management), Michael Davis (Land Development Services), Jeremy Grandstaff (member of the public), Joanne Collins (Commission on Aging, member of the public), Melanie Williams (NVRC, member of the public), and Pam Gannon (NVRC, member of the public).

The board met in person and provided members of the public the opportunity to access the meeting via Zoom. A quorum was present with members attending in person. Christie Garton attended virtually, as she was caring for a sick relative.

**Minutes and Agenda:**

1. Call to Order: David called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of March 2024 Minutes: A motion to approve the March 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 inclusion of people with disabilities in air travel by connecting with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Accessibility Committee. She also provided some informational brochures about the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission workshop and Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons. Additionally, she will provide information on how FA-DSB members can provide feedback to the MWAA Accessibility Committee.

Jeremy Grandstaff introduced himself, stated he was a new member of the National Federal for the Blind's local chapter, and shared that he would like to collaborate and continue to connect with the FA-DSB in the future.

4. Approval of Agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and approved.

### **Meeting Items:**

- 1. Parking Reimagined: Survey Update & Draft Recommendations Discussion – Michael Davis, Land Development Services**

- Michael provided a Parking Reimagined update to the FA-DSB (presentation was shared). He discussed a survey that the agency had designed specifically regarding accessible parking. A recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and presented at the Board of Supervisors' July 23rd public meeting. He shared preliminary results of the survey, which indicated concern regarding the preservation of existing accessible spaces and redesign of current accessible spaces that are often blocked. Land Development Services is proposing a baseline ratio increase from 1:25 spaces to 1:15 spaces to countermand the effect that the decreased parking requirements set forth in the parking reimagined program would otherwise have on accessible parking.

- 2. FA-DSB Member Handbook – Claudia Vila**

- Claudia shared the FA-DSB Member Handbook with the board and pointed specifically to pages six and seven of the document. Page six included new staff names and contact information, and page seven had modified language pertaining to FA-DSB committees. That page formalized the fact that the board no longer hosts committees to do their work, rather they have moved to initiative-based advocacy with no more than two FA-DSB members per initiative. Lastly, Claudia encouraged members to reach out to her should they need any additional accommodations they are not already receiving. David made a motion to vote in favor of the updated Handbook and its language. It was seconded and approved.

- 3. FA-DSB Legislative Committee – Claudia Vila**

- Claudia asked for nominees for this year's legislative committee and notified the board that she had previously spoken with Sarah Taylor, who was interested in serving yet again. Claudia will email Sarah after the meeting to confirm this is still accurate. Bryan asked to be the second member to serve on the committee. The board voted and accepted the two nominees as the Legislative Committee members for calendar year 2024.

- 4. Nominations Committee Update – Deborah Hammer & Robin Rinearson**

- Deborah shared that David would like to remain Chair for another year, along with Jamie as Vice Chair. Claudia stated that Sarah Taylor notified her she'd be willing to serve as Secretary and that she would email Sarah after the meeting to confirm.

Brandis stated she'd be willing to take minutes, should Sarah ever be absent from a future meeting.

**5. Housing Initiative Brainstorm – Mike Ritter & Courtney Cezair Mayers**

- Mike Ritter provided the board with a presentation on accessible housing, which was included with the meeting materials. The presentation noted that FA-DSB members could educate, advocate, and suggest innovative strategies to promote accessible housing. Efforts can be measured via policies, permits, partnerships, and projects. Robin noted that she is advocating for real estate tax breaks at the local level (representative of Mason District), as adults with disabilities with employment are penalized. Mike will speak with the Design for Life, in Montgomery County, representatives to gain information about what could be advocated for within Fairfax County.

**6. Board Initiatives – FY 2024:**

Community Forums/SHAPE Partnership (Jamie and Brandis): Jamie and Brandis met with the staff liaisons from Commission on Aging (COA) and the SHAPE Initiative to identify preliminary steps to plan to host a collaborative forum. Jamie and Brandis have developed a list of questions to help facilitate the forums that will likely occur virtually. The COA representatives will attend the June FA-DSB meeting.

Improved Regional Transportation Options (Andrew and Robin): Andrew noted that the cost of the metro will increase July 1st from \$4 to \$4.50. Robin added that the window of pick-up and drop-off has increased to 60 minutes for general ridership and has increased to 90 minutes for wheelchair riders.

**7. General Updates:**

Diane asked that FA-DSB members share any specific concerns they have specifically around local trails, and she can convey those concerns to the Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways committee.

Christie similarly asked that FA-DSB members share specific concerns related to transportation with her, and that she could then relay that information to the Transportation Advisory Committee that she serves on. She agreed to follow up with Metro Access regarding a September presentation to the FA-DSB. She also agreed to reach out to them regarding procedures, as there have been reports of community members with disabilities not being picked up.

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