

**Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 13, 2022**

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Judith Turcott, Secretary, Fairfax City
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Lindsay Harris, City of Falls Church
- Sarah Graham Taylor, Lee District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Robin Rinearson, Mason District
- Benjamin Gibbs, At-Large
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Christie Garton, At-Large

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Jamie Lynne Bruen, Sully District- excused
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District- unexcused
- Vacant, Springfield District
- Vacant, Dranesville District

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Delali Osei-Boateng (DFS staff), Trina Mayhan-Webb (A&A Director), Courtney Arroyo (OEM staff), Rose Asuquo (Libraries staff), Michael Davis (Land Development Staff), William Mayland (Land Development staff), Dave Simon (member of the public), Doris Ray (member of the public).

The board conducted a wholly electronic meeting as 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. All board members stated calling from their home district.

Members of the public accessed the meeting via Zoom.

Minutes and Agenda:

1. **Call to order 7:03 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.
2. **Approval of Previous (May 2022) minutes.** Minutes were approved, motioned by Diane, and seconded by Robin.

3. **Public Comment.**

Dave Simon - Mt. Vernon district, introduced himself and stated he was looking forward to the meeting.

Doris Ray- ENDependence Center and a county resident. Doris updated the board on some changes taking place within WAMATA. Starting in September they will be installing a system for Wayfinding for individuals who are blind and low vision. The first set of stations will be going into operation from Vienna to East Falls Church. This is important because it will allow people with vision impairments and learning disabilities to find their way around. It will allow accessibility via an app. Additionally, the WMATA is starting to conduct hybrid meetings at their new headquarters in DC, in September. Doris also provided an update regarding the Washington Council of Governments. It has convened a Fair Housing work group that has been creating a model to be used in local jurisdictions on how to put together Analysis of Impediments (AI). Additionally, a draft of the most recent AI will be released in August and there will be an opportunity for public input. Lastly, Doris shared that the local DSBs in Arlington and Loudon County would like to collaborate with other DSBs to lobby at the state level for an increase in percentage of Type A accessible units in future newly constructed buildings. Currently the set-aside percentage is 2%, and the boards would like to advocate to increase that amount.

Courtney Arroyo (OEM)- Provided an update regarding the Functional Needs Registry. There are currently 902 individuals signed up for the registry.

Meeting Items:

Welcome New Board Members:

Christie Garton and Robin Rinearson introduced themselves to the board and were welcomed by the other members.

Michael Davis, Department of Planning and Development:

Michael Davis conducted a presentation to the board on his agency's recent parking initiative, which is in its transitional phase of project scope.

The presentation focused on the various topics:

- Less parking in better served by public transportation
- Less parking in walkable areas
- More parking in less accessible and walkable areas

Land Development would like feedback from the DSB on its proposal. Deborah asked the presenters to consider the following:

- With less parking available there will be fewer accessible spaces in smaller parking areas.
- Accessible spaces are often occupied and there is always a need for more parking options.

Christie brought up the issue of parking and safety. Lindsay asked that staff keep in mind that anyone can acquire a disability at any point, and that this issue should not be exclusive to persons with disabilities. Deborah agreed and reminded the group that this is an aging county and that parking concerns affect older adults, also.

Michael let the board know that any other comments can additionally be provided through the Parking Reimagined website.

Approval of FY 2023 Meeting dates:

Andrew moved to approve the proposed meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2023. Lindsay seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Virtual Public Meetings- Policy updates:

Claudia presented preliminary guidance for future meetings. She let the board know that she will be receiving additional training on the future of remote participation and virtual meetings at the end of the month. For now, it's fair to expect that the September meeting will take place in-person. Claudia reminded the board that they have a remote participation policy in place, although she will likely have to make some tweaks after her training on this topic. She further stated that per a new bill that was recently signed, there will be opportunity to host two board meetings fully virtual. From what she's researched, these meetings cannot occur consecutively. Sarah added that once the board decides on which months to hold these meetings, they cannot be changed, so there is consistency and continuity. Deborah suggested that the board hold virtual meetings in November and February on account of the weather. The board agreed that would be best.

Claudia stated that there will be an additional policy that will need to be drafted in order for the board to be able to host those two meetings virtually. She will finalize both policies over the summer.

Deborah put forth the motion to make November and February the meeting dates the board will meet virtually. Sarah moved and Robin seconded it.

Nominations Committee- FY 2023 Voting:

Lindsay stated that the nominations committee is recommending that the current executive committee serve another year. She then asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. The current officers agreed to serve another year. The executive committee for Fiscal Year 2023 will be comprised as follows:

1. Deborah Hammer, Chair
2. Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair
3. Judith Turcott, Secretary

Lindsay made the motion to nominate the current executive committee for another term. Robin seconded the motion.

Legislative Committee- Update:

Courtney and Jamie were not present to provide an update, therefore Claudia provided a brief summary of what was discussed at the last legislative committee meeting. The meeting was comprised of Courtney and Jamie and no items were identified for future Position Statements. Claudia stated that the group would provide comments to the Health and Human Services Issue Paper once that came out. Claudia asked Sarah, the third legislative committee member, if that was still their intention or if she had heard otherwise. Sarah stated she had not heard anything new.

Celebrate Fairfax:

Deborah stated that there is an event coming up in July, in celebration of the ADA's anniversary. She stated that Celebrate Fairfax invited the board to partner with them. She doesn't have any specifics yet, but that it is being held at the Capital One Park in Tysons at the end of July. Claudia offered to reach out to Celebrate Fairfax staff for an update and will email the board more information once she has it. Those interested in volunteering their time at the event should email Claudia and Deborah.

Board Initiatives:

Deborah provided a brief explanation of the board's various priorities as well as existing FOIA rules for the new board members. A discussion was then held around initiative updates.

Sarah provided an update regarding the first two initiatives. She stated that after some research it's likely that some education and outreach around these topics would be most appropriate and that she'll work with Courtney on next steps. She further mentioned that her supervisor was very interested in the second initiative, increasing housing for residents with disabilities, and that she was going to keep him updated.

Sarah also provided a legislative update that was specific to initiative number three- Increasing county employment for persons with disabilities. She stated that a new bill now allows local jurisdictions to provide a hiring preference on the basis of disability. Bill HB 710 was passed and signed during this last legislative session. Diane stated she was going to look into it. Sarah stated that local jurisdictions would have to pass an ordinance if they wanted to include this as a hiring preference, and that maybe that's something Diane and Debbie would want to consider when advocating for this initiative.

Deborah let the board know that MaryPauline had resigned from the DSB and that there was no current update on the transportation initiative. She asked for volunteers for this initiative. Robin and Andrew volunteered.

Dave Simon, member of the public, mentioned that the county has a program called TOPS that provides transportation options to persons with disabilities at a reduced rate. Claudia stated that there is also now a second TOPS program that NCS is currently piloting, and that she'd be happy to send the board a flier on this program.

Deborah asked that Andrew and Robin take the lead on drafting formal comments to the presentation provided by Michael Davis. Robin asked that staff add the language "parking" to initiative four.

Deborah provided an overview of initiative five, ensuring all county buildings and facilities meet ADA requirements. Deborah stated this was an open and ongoing initiative and that the board member who volunteers for this initiative would bring any issues regarding accessibility to the board. Christie volunteered for this initiative. Robin volunteered to be her partner.

Brandi stated that there was no update for initiative six.

Regarding initiative seven, accessibility of all county websites and online services, Debbie stated that Claudia had emailed Fairfax County's Content Web Editor, Mike Smuland, a few weeks back but wasn't sure if there was an update. Claudia stated that she had sent a follow up email earlier that day but had no further update at this time.

Andrew provided an update regarding initiative eight, accessibility and education for area businesses. Andrew has experience working with people with disabilities and providing education for people with disabilities. Deborah proposed an asynchronous training primarily for workers regarding ADA and disability etiquette and interacting with people being the primary focus.

Judith spoke about combining this initiative with #10 as it addresses many of the same issues and the overlap may be significant. Deborah asked Claudia to set up a meeting to aid in this.

There was no update regarding initiative nine, but Deborah stated this applied to all board members.

Judith and Brandis are conducting ongoing research and planning for the scope and sequence of the presentation for initiative ten.

Courtney and Jamie did not have an update for initiative eleven.

Benjamin and Lindsay provided an update regarding initiative twelve, working with the Office of Elections to better voting conditions for persons with disabilities. Lindsay provided an update regarding the email she sent to the Office of Elections. She was happy to share that they liked the suggestion to link their webpage to the Virginia Elections page. They are currently trying to get more information about the context of the training their Poll workers receive. They are also going to suggest the creation of an informational flyer for persons with disabilities on services available to facilitate voting.

General Updates:

Deborah went over the various Ad Hoc committees that the DSB has a seat on and asked for any updates. There were no current updates. Deborah asked the board to volunteer for the several vacancies that currently exist. Claudia will send members the most recent board roster so that new members can read up on the boards and vacancies.

9:00 Motion to adjourn was made by Deborah and seconded by Andrew. The meeting was adjourned.