

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 11, 2021

FA-DSB Members in Attendance:

- Deborah Hammer, Chair, Mount Vernon District
- Brandis Ruise, Vice Chair, Hunter Mill District
- Judith Turcott, Secretary, Fairfax City
- Tom Bash, At-Large
- Deborah Cohen, Braddock District
- Diane Monnig, Providence District
- Andrew Magill, At-Large
- Courtney Cezair Mayers, Dranesville District
- Sarah Taylor, Lee District
- Mary Pauline Jones, Springfield District

FA-DSB Members Absent from the Meeting:

- Sully District, Sailesh Panchang- resigned. Sully District now vacant.
- Melandee Canaday-Jones, At-Large- excused
- City of Falls Church- Vacant
- Lee District- Vacant
- Mason District- Vacant

Others Present: Claudia Vila (DFS staff), Karen Kelly (DFS staff), Delali Osei-Boateng (DFS staff), Diana Cottrill (Learning Programs and Staff Development Coordinator for the Department of Family Services).

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. 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.** 6:40 p.m. Roll call was taken 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 Agenda.**
3. **Approval of Previous (September 2021) Minutes:** Tabled to next meeting.

4. **Public Comment.** Due to the Board nature of the meeting, a retreat format, there would not be an opportunity for public comment for this meeting.
5. **Meeting Items:** Diana Cottrill introduced herself and provided a brief overview of how the StrengthsFinders tool can be used to help and to possibly grow our team. StrengthsFinders helps people explore 34 strengths highlighted as part of this assessment tool. It helps people use their strengths and explore how it will benefit our group.

A facilitated discussion was led by Deborah Hammer regarding board priorities that were identified in September of 2020. Board members were asked to consider which initiative they would like to take on, as the board moves into an issue-based model.

1. Education (Courtney Mayers)- Courtney will send Deborah information after she organizes her thoughts related to educational needs.
2. Housing (Courtney Mayers and Sarah Taylor)- An initiative was explored to educate the public of their rights under the Fair Housing Act and how to ask for reasonable accommodations to break one's lease in the event an apartment is no longer accessible to the tenant. The board would also like to advocate for greater affordable and accessible housing opportunities, particularly multi-unit apartments.
3. Employment (Deborah Cohen and Diane Monnig)- The board would like to renew its efforts in changing boilerplate language in some Fairfax County job applications that require driver's licenses. They would additionally like to look into a model like that in Prince William County, where the county's human resources' office has a dedicated position to assisting persons with disabilities apply for employment.
4. Transportation (Mary Pauline)- A conversation was had around ride sharing and how people access ride sharing options.
 - a. Ride share companies should be accessible to people with disabilities.
 - b. Mary Pauline is on the county's main transportation committee. The committee is looking at partnerships with the government for ride sharing options. The committee is looking at existing rideshare data.
 - c. Metro Access can support more Uber Rides.
 - d. Bike share/scooter share- people leave the scooters everywhere. The board would like to have county support to ensure scooters do not block sidewalks. The board considered advocating for docking stations so that the sidewalks are clear for people with disabilities.
4. County buildings and compliance with ADA requirements (No volunteers)- A suggestion was made that the board survey county stakeholders regarding existing needs or concerns. The Department of Family Services, Disability Rights and Resources Unit, is looking to complete a Needs Assessment in the future, which will focus on persons with disabilities.

5. Pre-Notification 911 and Functional Needs Registry (Accomplished).
6. Ensure needs for constituents with disabilities are being met during the pandemic (Courtney Mayers and Brandis Ruise)- This will be a standing item to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are being considered.
7. Increased participation in other boards and committees and continued information sharing (Deborah Hammer).
 - a. The board decided to write to the Board of Supervisors to support future legislation that would allow boards to meet fully virtually. Deborah Hammer will draft the letter.
9. Groundwater Training geared toward disabilities (No volunteers).

Deborah would like to have feedback from the members about what they would like to work on. Once a member volunteers for one initiative s/he will need to write a measurable goal and expand upon it. The board then wrapped up discussion by sharing what they learned about themselves via the Strength Finder assessment, and what they are most looking forward to as they move through Fiscal Year 2022.

Lastly, Tom informed the board that he will not be renewing his term after it expires in November of 2021.

8:53 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Deborah.