



Public meeting (virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
Monday, October 25, 2021 / 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Adeniyi Michael Adekoya
Heidi Burghardt
Nicole Czarnecki
Joshua Hirsh
Doug Lea
Marian Vessels
Mia Williams
Karen Wood
- ABSENT:** Arthur Gold
- STAFF:** Erica Lewis
Michelle Henry
Terry Zeigler
- GUESTS:** George Stephens
Hazel Domangue
Regina Lee, SJBC Social Justice
Elke Pieters
Greg Schuckman
- INTERPRETERS:** Brenda Kelly Frey
Laura Berry

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Doug Lea, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming commission members and guests.

II. Roll Call

Roll was taken; Doug declared the Commission was in quorum and brought the meeting to order.

III. New Business

- A. Remembering Elliott Finkelstein – A moment of silence was observed to respect Elliott’s public service and acknowledge his passing. Marian proposed the idea of a memorial bench located in Font Hill Wetlands Park in memory of Elliott. Request will be made to County Executive for consideration. A memorial will be included in the 2021 Annual Report. The commission will continue with “Elliott’s haikus.”
- B. Vice Chair Position – Doug submitted a motion for Marian Vessels to fill this position. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- C. Single-Use Plastic Straw Ban Law – Scheduled to take effect on 1/1/22. The law carves out an exception for people with disabilities.
- D. Committee Reports
 - Access Committee
 - September – Attended a virtual workshop on the Draft Plan (The General Plan, HoCo By Design).
 - Upcoming – Virtual Tour of Bain Center is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2.
 - Provider Committee.
 - September – Conducted a presentation regarding statewide benefits counseling.
 - Upcoming – Presentation on tax credits to homeowners and home modifications is scheduled for November 17.

IV. **Old Business Updates**

- A. Consideration of Meeting Minutes
 - The Chair entered the August 23, 2021 minutes and opened them for discussion. A motion to accept the minutes as written was entered and seconded. A vote of Commission members was taken and approved without opposition.
- B. Commission Membership – Develop a plan for onboarding/orientation of commission members. Send survey to new members for ideas that would be helpful to new and current members.
- C. Rules of Procedure – Matter tabled for December meeting to allow members more time to review.
- D. 2021 Annual Report – In process of being drafted and finalized and will be sent to Commission members in advance of December meeting.
- E. Display of Winning Entries from ADA30 Art Contest – Artwork was framed. Diversity Day was cancelled so artwork was not displayed at employee diversity fair. Staff is in the process of working with the department to have the artwork professionally hung at the Patuxent Woods facilities.
- F. HCPSS 2-Way Communication Systems at School Entrances
 - Doug will continue to move forward with setting a time to meet with HCPSS Equity and Inclusion and Building Facilities staff. When a meeting date has been confirmed, Doug would like members of the commission to attend.
- G. CoD 2022 Meeting Dates – 2022 meeting dates will be discussed at the December meeting. Discussions regarding a change of meeting time will be discussed when new members are on board.

V. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

VI. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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