



Monday, December 9, 2019

Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities  
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1st Floor  
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
6:30 to 8:30 PM

## MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Heidi Burghardt  
Cynthia Coburn  
Nicole Czarnecki  
Elliott Finkelstein  
Arthur Gold  
Martin Jones  
Randy Murbach  
Marian Vessels

ABSENT: Riffat Ashai  
Andrea Kolp  
Leslie Kornreich  
Doug Lea  
Karen Wood

STAFF Michelle Henry  
Erica Lewis  
Terry Zeigler

INTERPRETERS Michele Lawson  
Becky Frey

GUESTS: Nina Krzysko, HCLS  
Robin Ford, HCLS  
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson, HCLS

- I. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
- II. New Business
  - A. Katie DiSalvo-Thronson, Community Education and Engagement Manager  
Howard County Library System  
Katie presented on the many programs/events that HCL has to offer.  
Few events that the library is currently offering:

**“The Longest Table”** – last year HCL hosted this event for the third year. This event allows Howard County residents to come together to meet new people in the community and discuss topics on an individual and community perspective.

**Difference in an Era of Hyper-Citizenship**, Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7:00pm East Columbia Branch

**Sensory Friendly Stories & Fun** (ages 3-5 with adult) Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:15a.m. Elkridge Branch.

Website offered through Howard County Library system that lets you Stream, Download and Learn info : [www.hclibrary.org/hclsnow](http://www.hclibrary.org/hclsnow)

- B. Approval of Minutes for October 28, 2019 meeting
- Minutes approved with the following amendments: Replace CDI (Commission on Disability Issues) with CoD (Commission on Disabilities); page two of October minutes as well the e-mail address.
  - Motion to approve changes to the October 2019 minutes to change CDI to CoD – passed unanimously
- C. Report on December 2 Transportation Forum – Marian Vessels  
Forum was well attended.  
Issues Discussed
- Lifts on buses not effective
  - Increase bus stops in Howard County, consider rerouting
  - Recommended CoD should continue pushing the concern regarding accessibility of bus stops in Howard County.
- D. Report on December 3 Howard County Age-Friendly Initiative – Marian Vessels  
What is Age-Friendly: The County Executive and OOAI launched the Age-Friendly plan in December, 2019. Age-Friendly Initiative is a three to five-year plan to join AARP network of age-friendly states and communities, an affiliate of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Eight Domains to Age-Friendly Livability:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Public places to gather — indoors and out – and accessible buildings Transportation Options Sidewalks and safe, crossable streets for pedestrians; dedicated bicycle lanes; and public transit options
- Housing options to meet the needs of those with differing incomes, ages and life stages
- Social Participation Access to a variety of affordable activities to combat social isolation
- Respect and Social Inclusion Intergenerational activities for young people and older adults to interact with and learn to value one another
- Work and Civic Engagement Opportunities for active community engagement through paid employment and meaningful volunteer options

- Communication and Information sharing through a variety of delivery methods, with respect for cultural and age-related differences
- Community and Health Services Assistance and affordable care options available for all ages

Marian asked Commission to consider choosing one or two of the eight domains and attend the Age-Friendly meetings to be held twice a month.

Marian reported that a possible role for the Commission to undertake is how to incorporate disability overlay into the perspective of the Age-Friendly initiative.

Commission will extend an invitation to invite Age-Friendly staff to a COD meeting.

### III. Old Business

#### A. 2020 Meeting Dates

Motion to approve proposed 2020 meetings dates – passed unanimously. Three of the six full Commission meetings for 2020 will continue to be held at the Howard Building; the remaining three meetings will be held at alternate locations in the County. Erica will research and reserve accessible, alternate meeting spaces.

#### B. 2019 Annual Report

- Page 5 should recognize Brenda Kelly Fry receiving Leadership Award.
- Page 7 separation needed between March 12 and discussion
- Page 6 Lowe spelled incorrectly in heading

### IV. Announcements

#### COD meetings:

- Future Virtual/electronic CoD meetings – All meetings are public meetings – in order to have those kinds of meetings there would need to be total accessibility for all. As of now we will continue to have all meetings face to face.
- Comments shared on school entrance security. School system needs a more effective way to communicate with public other than intercom system. Howard County School system needs to ensure that system is accessible.
- Suggestion made that the school system re-evaluate the evacuation process they currently have in place.
- Suggestion made that the Commission send a letter to Howard County School system outlining these issues as well as inviting the school system to attend a CoD meeting to discuss.

### V. Adjournment

Commission meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

This document is available in an alternate format by request.

To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to [cod@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cod@howardcountymd.gov) at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) prior to the meeting date.