



Monday, June 22, 2020

Minutes of the Public Meeting (Virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

6:30 – 8:30 PM

PRESENT: Heidi Burghardt
Cynthia Coburn
Nicole Czarnecki
Elliott Finkelstein
Arthur Gold

Marian Vessels
Joshua Hirsh
Karen Wood
Doug Lea
Ade Kolp
Mia Williams

ABSENT: Riffat Ashai, MD
Randy Murbach

STAFF Michelle Henry
Erica Lewis
Terry Zeigler

INTERPRETERS Brenda Kelly-Frey
Becky Frey

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1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.

Staff read the rules for virtual meetings (handout)

Motion to revise Agenda to include approval of February Minutes. Motion seconded and approved. Motion to approve February Minutes; seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Old Business

1. E-Scooters Update

- Access Committee met with the Office of Transportation. Meeting was also attended by Sharon Maneki, National Federation of the Blind – Discussed the Terms and Conditions for Permit to Operate E-Scooter Sharing Program on Public Right-of-Way in Howard County and made recommendations.
2. Recommendations to the County Executive regarding sign language interpreter licensure
 - Motion to approve letter to County Executive regarding sign language interpreter competencies. Seconded. Approved with 2 abstentions.
 3. 2020 Awards Event and Art Competition
 - Announcement that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, plans that the Commission had made to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the ADA with an art contest and October awards had to be tabled. Commission discussed possibly holding a commemorative event next year.
 4. Van-accessible Parking Spaces
 - Suggestion for a field study of loading and unloading spaces for vehicles with ramps and lifts. Motorists are sometimes unable to get into vehicle if someone is parked in the access aisle. Van-accessible parking – Suggestion that the County consider establishing standards that would permit van-accessible parking spaces being placed furthest from the entrance.

3. New Business

1. Provider Committee Update
 - May meeting cancelled – next scheduled meeting is the third Wednesday in September.
2. Access Committee Update
 - Redevelopment of Village of Long Reach – The Access Committee will consider meeting with architect regarding accessible parking.
 - New Howard County Court House – The Access Committee will follow up to see whether its recommendations are being considered in the final stages of the new building.
 - Site Development Plans and Public Sidewalks
Public Sidewalks – Committee recommends Commission revisit the issue regarding extending/connecting county

sidewalks – and invite appropriate department(s) to Commission meeting.

- Disability Parking Enforcement

At the request of the Access Committee, Commission discussed issuance of citations with requirement to appear in court. Commission to consider meeting with the Police Department regarding parking enforcement options.

- Accessible Trails in Howard County

Access Committee recommended that the Commission contact Rec & Parks to discuss a map identifying which trails are accessible and whether there are any plans for making trails accessible. The Commission will Invite Recreation & Parks to a future Commission meeting.

3.Other

- WebEx Accessibility– Howard County is currently using WebEx for public meetings. Some Commission members expressed concerns about the accessibility of WebEx, citing difficulties with navigating the screen and “pinning” the sign language interpreters. Commission members will send to Michelle or Erica, a list of meeting platforms that they have found to be more accessible. Staff will discuss the issue with the Technology team.

4. 8:00 Adjournment