**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL/HYBRID**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Monday, August 19, 2024

The **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION** convened its meeting at **7:05 pm** on **August 19, 2024**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)** Commissioner Alexa Mavroidis, chair

Commissioner Karen Audant

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)** Commissioner Bryant Atkins

Commissioner Doris Ray

**ABSENT** Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx

Commissioner Duncan Barron

Commissioner Justin Boatner

Commissioner Suzette Riser

**STAFF** **Courtney Sales**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Public Comment*

Mrs. McAlice addressed the following:

1. The parking blocks are located in the parking garage at the Waycroft Apartments at Ballston. The parking garage is owned/operated by LAZ parking garage. The parking blocks were painted gray-on-gray making them difficult to see and navigate around. Mrs. McAlice wrote to the CEO of the LAZ parking garage company and two weeks later lines were painted yellow.
2. The glass doors on the tenth floor of her apartment residence provide access to the swimming pool and grill are heavy and hard to open.

Mrs. McAlice requested assistance from the commission to advocate to management to add push buttons to the doors. The Commission requested Mrs. McAlice email the staff liaison a copy of a letter sent to the CEO of LAZ and pictures of the doors. Commissioner Doris requested a write-up of this public comment from Mrs. McAlice to provide to the planning commission.

*Recovery Home Feedback Discussion*

The Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development [CPHD] requested DAC’s feedback on a proposed text amendment to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance [ACZO] to allow Recovery Residences to be located more broadly in residential neighborhoods.

The commission expressed the new proposed zoning definition for a recovery home, is limited to one disability group. DAC’s recommendation is to oppose unless the definition is expanded to include other disability groups (i.e. physical, deaf, hard of hearing) who may want to operate an independent shared living space in a single-family dwelling. Suggested, Commissioner Doris will draft a letter with commissioners’ comment.

*ADA coordinator Training Certificate Program Promoted to County Staff*

*Commissioner Karen*

The commission is recommending county staff participate and complete the ADA Coordinator training certification program for FY 2026. Commissioner Karen explained, the ADA Coordinator Training Certificate program is offered by the Great Plains ADA Center and the University of Missouri School of Health Professions Disability Studies. Participants complete training credits (41 required) and must pass an on-line examination. The membership fee is $300.00 plus the possible additional cost to attend conferences to complete training credits. Many of the courses are offered at low to no cost. Commissioner Karen is currently in the program.

Recommendation/Action item Commissioner Karen will contact Mr. Matthew Barkley, ADA Coordinator in Montgomery County, Maryland and coordinate a conference call.

* ADA Coordinator Training Certificate Program [Information](https://www.adacoordinator.org/)

*Request for DAC’s Input for 2025 Legislative Priorities*

In reference to Commissioner Doris’ email to the commission on August 1, 2024, the points shown below were discussed.

1. Support legislation to direct the Virginia Building Code Official to increase the percentage of fully accessible (Type A units) required to be included in all newly constructed, multi-family residential developments from 2% of the total number of units to 10% of the total number of units.
2. Support legislation that requires all state departments and agencies to fully comply with ADA Title II requirements, including newly published regulations implementing new standards for web content and mobile applications developed and operated by state and local governments.

*DAC’s top three actions for Arlington 2050 Initiative*

Commission recommended adding the two priorities from the 2025 legislative input as actions for Arlington 2050.

1. Direct the Virginia Building Code Official to increase the percentage of fully accessible (Type A units) required to be included in all newly constructed, multi-family residential developments from 2% of the total number of units to 10% of the total number of units.
2. Requirement to fully comply with ADA Title II requirements, including newly published regulations implementing new standards for web content and mobile applications developed and operated by state and local governments.
3. Transportation, Public right away.

Commissioner Alexa will draft and send a letter to the commissioner on transportation topics for input.

*DAC Virtual Meetings*

Per the updated electronic meeting policy fifty percent (50%) of commission meetings can be held virtually. DAC decided January’s meeting on January 27, 2025, will be virtual. January’s meeting date was changed due to the Martin Luther King Holiday (January 20, 2025). The commission will discuss if meetings should be virtual as it comes up.

*Chair’s report*- Alexa Mavroidis- no report.

*Site Plan Review Committee*- Commissioner Doris Ray – no report (committee did not meet in August)

*Housing Commission*- Commissioner Doris Ray - no report (commission did not meet in July).

*WMATA*- Commissioner Doris Ray –

Metro Access obtained a new contractor to service the reservation center. The reservation center is scheduled to relocate to another office. A new contractor was acquired due to feedback/testimony from Metro Access users’ feedback on their experience of long wait time to make and/or change Metro Access reservations. This discussion will continue in September’s meeting.

*Barcroft Land Use Analysis: Commissioner Karen Audant –*

The engagement working group concluded in May 2024. Since the conclusion, county staff have conducted presentations with the developer, Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners. This will continue through Fall of 2024. County staff have been working with Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners, to prepare amendments to each [form based code](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/Permits/Form-Based-Code) (FBC) involving Barcroft. These amendments do not address accessibility. The FBC advisory working group (FBC AWG) will review the drafted amendments and new construction application for Barcroft (1300 current units, no accessible units because of the age of the buildings, the topography). The second phase involves renovating units that include some accessible units. New construction will add an estimated 1700 units. The developer has committed to 10% of the total 3000 units will be accessible. Commissioner Karen will review the updated plan and continue to track the progress.

[Information](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Development/Barcroft-Apartments/Land-Use-Analysis)

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

*Updated Electronic Meeting Policy*

The commission reviewed the updated electronic meeting policy. Commissioner Bryant motioned to adopt the updated electronic meeting policy.

* Commissioner Karen seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 4-0.

*Approval of May and June Meeting Minutes.*

The commission provided edits to the May and June meeting minutes. Commissioner Bryant motion to approve meeting minutes with edits mentioned by the commission.

* Commissioner Karen seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at **9:08 pm**.

Next Hybrid Meeting: Monday September 16, 2024, conference room 311