**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

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**ARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

The **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION** convened its meeting at **7:23 PM** on **February 20, 2024**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)**  Commissioner Karen Audant

Commissioner Bryant Atkins

Commissioner Nicolette Gerald

Commissioner Alexa Mavroidis

Commissioner Doris Ray

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)** Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx, chair participated virtually from home (via Teams) due to a medical condition that prevented their physical attendance.

**ABSENT** Commissioner Duncan Barron

Commissioner Justin Boatner

Commissioner Suzette Risacher

**STAFF** **Courtney Sales**

* [*Link to Teams Recording*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1qWlQWfuQ0)

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Public Comment-No*

*Barcroft Land Use Analysis: Engagement Working Group Status Report- Commissioner Karen A.*

Commissioner Karen represented DAC at the kickoff meeting for the Barcroft Land Use Analysis Engagement Working Group on February 26, 2024. Twenty-eight organizations were represented at the event. Topics covered included redevelopment of the site, multimodal transportation, parking, public open space, natural areas, and urban design. Accessibility was brought up in conversation at the meeting. Commissioner Karen asked commissioners items/questions they would like her to take with her to this working group moving forward the following was provided: *clarify what will be the input of this group/community, is this another site plan review, and because this is land use, is the group talking about adding land around complex commercial properties?* DAC agreed to add Barcroft Land Use Analysis Working Group to the agenda as a standing item/liaison report.

* [Barcroft Land Use Analysis Presentation](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/commissions/documents/fbc-awg/barcroft_wg_1_preservation_feb_26_2024_correction.pdf)
* [Kickoff Materials and Notes](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Development/Barcroft-Apartments/Land-Use-Analysis)

*Chair’s Report- Commissioner Elizabeth P.*

The chair shared; she had been on medical leave the past two months. The chair referenced her resignation letter that was forwarded to the commissioners notifying them she will serve two months (until April) then step down as chair.

*Nomination of a new chair – Commissioners*

Commissioner Elizabeth opened the floor for nominations for a new chair. Commissioner Alexa was nominated to serve as the new chair when she is ready to assume the role. DAC agreed to have an interim serve until then. Commissioner Elizabeth will serve as chair until April 2024. Commissioner Karen will serve as interim chair effective May 2024 and will continue until Commissioner Alexa is ready to assume the role.

* Staff liaison will notify county board liaison of DAC’s recommendation and plan.

*County Board FY2025 Budget Workshop (Thursday March 14th) Chair Elizabeth P*.

Chair Elizabeth is scheduled to attend the county board FY2025 workshop. The chair solicited items to discuss with the board at the workshop from commissioners:

* Hire ADA/504 compliance person.
* Hire ADA Housing/HUD Coordinator.
* Funding to provide a dedicated person in the Office of Human Rights or enforcement to conduct housing testing.
* Ensure the county’s budget is sufficient to fully fund WMATA bus and rail services.
* Arlington’s 2050 Envisioning Tomorrow Together-source a consultant in county visioning and how accessibility is incorporated to be more accessible for our residents.
* Adult changing tables - CIP funds (Capital Improvement Plan).
* Commissioner Elizabeth P. will contact Pamela Van Hine, Pedestrian Advisory Committee to confirm if there are overlapping issues between the two groups.
* Need for more funding for DAC regional grantees.
* Funding for DAC to have a full-time dedicated staff liaison (Fairfax County has three staffing their commission). DAC cannot properly conduct assessments or engagement with the disability community more regularly.

*Follow up Action Question from DAC -Commissioners*

The Commissioners requested to know if STAR Focus Area Engagement - Open House was recorded. Staff liaison received response from Mr. Clinton Edwards, open house was not recorded, was a drop in style with no formal presentation.

*WMATA-Commissioner Doris R.*

WMATA is holding four hearings for the FY 2025 budget in the next few weeks. Transit authorities announced their hearings 15 calendar days (note the timeline). One of the meetings will be held in Bozman, county boardroom either Tuesday or Wednesday. Maryland and District of Columbia have committed to funding WMATA, Virginia is the only jurisdiction that has not committed. This could lead to reduced or loss of services, rail and bus. Commissioner Doris will be attending the hearings.

Call to action: Anybody and everybody get the word out that people or a group come to the hearings to speak out.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Alexa moved to approve January 29, 2024, meeting minutes with Commissioner Doris edits related to the first paragraph of the meeting minutes (that will be provided to staff liaison) Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion.

The Commission unanimously supported the motion 5-0.

* Commissioner Duncan Barron
* Commissioner Justin Boatner
* Commissioner Suzette Risacher

Meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.