**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Monday, January 29, 2024

The **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION** convened its meeting at 7:15 pm on January 29, 2024.

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)** Commissioner Karen Audant, acting chair

Commissioner Bryant Atkins

 Commissioner Justin Boatner

 Commissioner Nicolette Gerald

Commissioner Alexa Mavroidis

Commissioner Doris Ray

**ABSENT**  Commissioner Suzette Risacher

Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx

 Commissioner Duncan Barron

**STAFF** **Courtney Sales**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Presentation on STAR Focus Area Engagement [Open House Invitation](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Events/STAR-Engagement-2)*

Mr. Clinton Edwards, Transit Services Manager, Department of Environmental Services, invited commissioners to the STAR engagement open house, January 31st 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Attendees will provide feedback on features, i.e., track a ride, purchase tickets online and additional items STAR users would like to see moving forward as the department moves to improve the operations of STAR. Those who are not able to attend in-person will have the opportunity to participate online. The online engagement form will mirror the in-person sessions discussed during the open house. Online participation will be open until February 14th.

Commissioners mentioned concerns regarding community members and STAR users not provided advance notice of event. Mr. Edwards shared information was shared with the Accessibility Subcommittee, emailed to STAR users the week of January 16th, and postcard mailers will go out to STAR users for feedback. The Department of Human Services sent information on the open house to their clients.

Commissioners asked, related to notifying/communicating events, which of the two would include the minimum notification time for events, the county’s communication plan or the required communication plan by the Federal Transit A (FTA). Mr. Edwards will check with the county’s communications department on standards for notifications of county events.

Commissioners asked Mr. Edwards if he plans to solicit input from DAC and others as STAR develops service standards. Mr. Edwards will need to inquiry with the finance department, once he knows, will follow up with commissioners.

*Chair’s Report- Commissioner Karen A., acting chair*

Commissioner Karen shared she attended the ART 25th Anniversary Celebration event on January 24, 2024. Commissioner noted, there was no mention of STAR open house event.

*Site Plan Review Committee- Commissioner Doris R.*

Committee has not met, no updates.

*Transit Advisory Commission Accessibility Sub-committee- Commissioner Alexa M.*

The subcommittee voted and approved to expand the committee to accommodate seven members (originally three member) in response to Ms. RoseAnn Ashby public comment letter.

*WMATA- Commissioner Doris R.*

WMATA is facing a budget shortfall of $750 million. This may result in a reduction or elimination of one-third to half of the routes and significant cuts in hours of operation. This will affect METRO access users and patrons, which are Arlington residents. If these reductions happen the effects will happen July 1. (Call to Action) We need to: #1 communicate with our state legislators right now to fully fund METRO #2 communicate with our representatives on the WMATA board and #3 beginning of March we need to communicate to our county board as a whole and particularly our representative.

*Housing Commission- Commissioner Doris R.*

The commission approved funding related to financing Barcroft Apartments and worked on adopting their annual plan for the coming calendar year. More to come in February.

[*VHC Health Behavioral Wellness Facility*](https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2023/VHC-Health-and-Arlington-County-Announce-Plans-for-New-Rehabilitation-and-Behavioral-Wellness-Facility)*- Bryant Atkins*

The group is in a holding pattern. Waiting on the first step, the Commissioner of Department of Health will need to authorize public need in Arlington. Once authorized facilities would need approve then reviewed by SPRC. Commissioner Bryant requested to remove item as an ongoing agenda item for now, if aging commission reaches out, this item will be added to the agenda.

*Staff report- Courtney Sales, staff liaison*

Welcome to Page Assist toolbar is a new feature added to the county website that allows users to adjust the options of the website to meet their accessibility needs. This icon displays on Arlington County web pages. The image is a purple circle, inside is a white circle, inside the white circle is the web accessibility icon.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Karen A. moved to fund all four FY 2025 and FY 2026 regional grantees (shown below) the amount requested in their applications and split remaining balance equally among grantees added comments to keep the funding at the same amount for the next cycle. Commissioners invited grantees to a DAC monthly meeting for the opportunity to update a during the FY 2025 and FY 2026.

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons     $31,364.75

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind                                                                           $30,996.75

Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia                                                               $31,106.75

Metropolitan Washington Ear                                                                                  $18,441.75

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Total Recommended Funding                                                                                   $111,910.00

* Commissioner Alex M seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 6-0.

Commissioner Suzette Risacher was absent.

Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx was absent.

Commissioner Duncan Barron was absent.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Karen A. motion to approve September 19, 2023, meeting minutes with edits.

* Commissioner Doris R. seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 6-0.

Commissioner Suzette Risacher was absent.

Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx was absent.

Commissioner Duncan Barron was absent.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Karen A. motion to approved October 17, 2023, meeting minutes.

* Commissioner Nicolette G. seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 6-0.

Commissioner Suzette Risacher was absent.

Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx was absent.

Commissioner Duncan Barron was absent.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Karen A. motion to approve November 21, 2023, meeting minutes.

* Commissioner Alexa M. seconded the motion.
* The Commission unanimously supported the motion 6-0.

Commissioner Suzette Risacher was absent.

Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx was absent.

Commissioner Duncan Barron was absent.

8:57pm - Meeting adjourn.