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# **ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 318

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201

VOICE/TTY (703) 228-7096

##### **Minutes: 10/18/16 7:00 PM Conference room 311**

Type of meeting:Regular monthly meeting.

Staff:Anthonia Sowho

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| **Attendance** |
|  | Member | Present | Absent |
|  | Bill Staderman, Chair | x |  |
|  | Cathryn Bonnette |  | x |
|  | Doris Ray |  | x |
|  | Marie Pellegrino |  | x |
|  | Alexa Mavroidis | x |  |
|  | Dean Bonney |  | x |

**CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM**

## **Agenda Items**

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1. **Public Comment-** Dr. Christopher Wood attended the Disability Advisory Commission meeting. He asked to express concerns about the STAR program. Before he shared his concerns he said he was unsure about whether he was parked in the correct garage and he feared being towed. Dr. Wood was escorted to his vehicle by security then he returned to the meeting. He expressed concern about the STAR application process. He reported that he did not understand why he would need to be certified as an individual with a disability by Metro Access before he could qualify for STAR services. DAC chair Bill Staderman explained that the eligibility requirements exist because a physician must certify that individuals are diagnosed with a disability and need the service provided by STAR. He also explained that STAR requires Metro Access certification due to budgeting issues as they do not review medical documentation independently. DAC member Alexa Mavroidis explained that recertification is necessary to ensure that individuals who use the service continue to qualify as individuals with disabilities. Dr. Wood then asked about what individuals who do not have access to medical providers are expected to do. The commission members explained that they could seek assistance from an organization such as Arlington’s Department of Human Services (DHS). Dr. Wood said many people do not know what resources are available in the community. He shared that he has diabetes and that his toe has been amputated. He also shared that he had wounds on his foot so he needs to stop driving and utilize a service like Metro Access. Dr. Wood proceeded to remove his medical boot and the bandages that were wrapped around his foot. The commission members along with staff liaison encouraged Dr. Wood to keep his bandages and boot on but he insisted on showing the wounds. He removed the bandages and stretched his foot out asking all who were present if they could see the severity of his foot’s condition. Dr. Wood was encouraged to reapply his bandages and put his boot back on. Afterwards, he proceeded to discuss that many doors around the county are heavy and parking garages are inaccessible. He specifically mentioned that the door of the library on North Quincy Street is heavy. He also said the parking garages at courthouse plaza and DHS sequoia complex are not accessible. The commission chair thanked Dr. Wood for coming then he left the meeting. Shortly after Dr. Wood left the meeting, the DAC meeting was interrupted by Tina Pryce, Deputy Clerk to the County Board. She reported that Dr. Wood had interrupted the county board meeting stating that the doors to the parking garage are inaccessible. He was escorted to the parking garage by a deputy county manager who assisted with the doors. Bill Staderman DAC Chair, Alexa Mavroidis, and Anthonia Sowho explained that Dr. Wood is not a commission member.
2. **Approval of Minutes-** September meeting minutes were not approved during this meeting because three members are required to vote. Only 2 members attended the meeting.
3. **Chair’s Report:** Chair Bill Staderman reported on his participation with the Real Estate Tax Relief Committee. He shared that the Commonwealth has funds set aside to cover real estate taxes for “people in need” including individuals with disabilities. The program makes it easier for individuals to maintain their homes. He expressed concern that income eligibility is determined by household income. This can rule out individuals who receive SSI or SSDI benefits but live with spouses who work. Chair Staderman will ask about how tax relief services can be accessed during his next committee meeting.
4. **Liaison Reports**
	1. **Transit Advisory Commission-Accessibility Sub-Committee:** Commission member Alexa Mavroidis provided updates regarding Metro Safetrack. Metro rail will need 8 more hours per week for maintenance. Metro operating hours are listed on the WMATA website. No reports of Metro Access being affected. Open house will be held on 10/20/16. There will also be a public hearing from noon to 9pm.

STAR- Only update is that pick up window still raises some concern to users. Staff response is that real time information regarding ride’s location will be provided to users so they know exactly when their ride will arrive.

* 1. **Housing Commission**- No updates

**Adjourn: 8:47 PM**

Next Meeting

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Conference Room 311