

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities (COD) Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2019
Winchester Hall

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Karen Duffy, who recognized the existence of a quorum and called for the approval of the meeting agenda, which was done by unanimous vote.

II. Attendance

The following members were present: Karen Duffy, Marsha Flowers, Nadine Autry, Amy Crehan, Jenn Tousey, Evan Evans, Karen Rushing and Theresa Posthuma.

Also in attendance were Steve McKay, County Council Liaison; Pearl Sims, ASL interpreter; Rick Harcum, Frederick County's Chief Executive Officer; Miles Ward and Pat Fleet, County Staff. John Gretz was also present.

III. Public comments were made by John Gretz concerning accessibility barriers in County road rights of way.

IV. Guest Speaker, David Olney, Frederick County Division of Public Works provided an update on the Transition Plan for Mitigation of Barriers to Accessibility within County Public Rights of Way. Mr. Olney stated that the transition plan

began with a self-evaluation. The County's first self-evaluation was in 2014, and an updated self-evaluation was completed in 2019. Mr. Olney described the County's efforts to correct non-compliant features, such as ramps and sidewalks that are located within County road rights of way. The transition plan is designed to identify barriers, create a program to correct deficiencies, and be updated periodically. While significant work has been completed, much more work remains to be done.

John Gretz provided information to educate the COD about the County's transition plan. He said that the transition plan and self-evaluations were in force only because he brought deficiencies to the attention of the state. He said that the County's efforts to self-evaluate and correct barriers to accessibility – both past and present - were deficient in a number of respects.

V. Business

- a. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019 and July 8, 2019 meetings and it was seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- b. Miles Ward reported that the county was working on a video highlighting persons with disabilities employed in the community. Hopefully, it can be premiered when County Executive Jan Gardner issues a proclamation honoring Disability Employment Awareness Month on October 29, 2019. COD members need to help publicize this proclamation by

inviting community members and attending. The program will begin at 11:00 am in the first floor hearing room at Winchester Hall.

- c. Because the COD's scheduled meeting date of November 11 is Veterans Day and all County facilities will be closed, November 14 was selected for the date of the COD's November meeting.
- d. Jenn Tousey was appointed to chair the COD Outreach Committee. Karen Rushing and Marsha Flowers were appointed to serve on that committee.
- e. The COD is now holding Executive Committee meetings on the 4th Monday of each month at 6 pm. The meetings will be held at the Public Safety Training Facility building.
- f. There was a discussion about the COD having a table at the Asian American Center of Frederick's Community Health Fair on October 26, 2019. After discussion, the decision was made that the COD was not quite ready for such an event this year but that brochures and questionnaires will be updated for future events.

VI. Other information shared by members

The COD has a Facebook page. Everyone was asked to like the page and share activities and information as it becomes available.

Evan Evans will be on a FCC panel to talk about security with persons with disabilities.

On September 21, Heartly House is holding a big event. Rock the 40th- Walk a Mile in Their Shoes will celebrate its 40 years of service to victims and survivors and help continue to raise awareness of about what it does.

The meeting was adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by Pat Fleet, Administrative Coordinator in the Frederick County Human Relations Department.