

**Anne Arundel Commission on Disability Issues  
 2664 Riva Road, Suite 170, the Independence Conference Room  
 Annapolis, MD 21401  
 August 22, 2017, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
 Meeting Minutes**

<b>Commission Members In Attendance</b>	
John Leopold	Debra Luzietti-Myers
Iris Littig	Ginger Palmer
Colleen O’Neill Yanchulis	Maryann Sabo
L. Denise Portis	Jeanne Elion
<b>Commission Non-Voting Members In Attendance</b>	
<b>ADA Coordinator’s Office In Attendance</b>	
Joelle Ridgeway	Vickie Martin
<b>Ex-Officios Non-Voting Members In Attendance</b>	
Kylie Tibbs	Linda Donahue
Audrey Sellers	Ryan Stewart
Dawn Thomas	Rebecca Hass
Sara Gannon	Corporal Foster
Greg Africa	Jan Holland
Jandt Pantaleo	Jerry Shandrowsky
<b>Guests in Attendance</b>	
Elaine Smith	

**MINUTES**

The Minutes for July were approved by 7 members with one correction. The exhibitor tables for Disability Awareness Day should read \$55 for no electric and \$65 for electric. Since a quorum was not met, Debra Luzietti-Myers will send out an email to those members who were not in attendance to finish the vote.

**ADA COORDINATOR’S REPORT**

Joelle Ridgeway reported that there were two formal complaints for the month of July. One was a Title II, one was a Title III. She also received 4 calls for ADA information, either

resources or supports that people needed in the community. Joelle continues to attend webinars that are available through ADA mid-Atlantic. The most recent was accessible courthouses. She is presently working on Anne Arundel County's self-evaluation, and is meeting with county departments individually to help them go through the process. The departments are presently looking at their programs, services, and activities to make sure there are no barriers for individuals with disabilities. Joelle held an ADA training session at Sarah's House twice in the month of July.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Debra Luzietti-Myers introduced L. Denise Portis, faculty member at Anne Arundel County Community College who teaches women's psychology, personality psychology, and human sexuality. Debra announced that "In 1991, she began to lose her hearing, a progressive issue from a childhood TBI. By 2004, she was profoundly deaf and underwent surgery for a cochlear implant in 2005. She has a service dog. She is active in the SWC organization, hearing loss advocacy groups, mid-Atlantic ADA leadership network, and Fidos for Freedom. She has written for a disability advocacy and support blog for 12 years. She is finishing up her dissertation, and strives to make a difference on her campus by vising for SODA, Students Organized for Disability Awareness, the Psychology Club, and a Delta Alpha Pi International service organization for students with disabilities. She's sits on the sports committee, and the Disability Awareness Day subcommittee". Denise's topic of discussion for the commission meeting was "Service Dogs in Public"

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Disability Awareness Day**

Ginger Palmer reported on the number of exhibitor registration forms received. She also reported on the nominations received and asked for everyone to work on getting more in before the deadline. Ginger announced the committee has secured Hands of Harmony, Fidos for Freedom, the Chesapeake Dance Force Center, and the Musical Autist for the DAD program.

### **Federal Legislation HR620 wrap-up**

The committee is presently working on a cover letter to add to a formal letter to the County Executive regarding bill HR-620.

### **CRAB (Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating) Proposal wrap-p**

A recommendation was written by the Commission and sent to the Administration's office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Holiday Sharing**

A motion was made, seconded and carried to hold the Holiday Sharing program. Since a quorum wasn't met, Debra Luzietti-Myers will send out an email to those members who were not in attendance to finish the vote.

### **Annual Retreat**

Debra Luzietti-Myers requested for the commission to put on their thinking caps and come up with some topics of interest for the Annual Retreat. These topics will be discussed at a later date.

### **ADA Business Compliance Program (Sticker Program)**

Debra Luzietti-Meyers announced that the commission has been talking about the reimplementation of a sticker program for local businesses. At the executive committee, an ad hoc committee was selected. L. Denise Portis offered to chair the ad hoc committee. Jeanne Elion and Iris Littig will provide information on a past sticker program that will be helpful for the committee to re-implement a new program. The committee will put a proposal together and forward to the administration for approval.

## **COMIITTEE REPORTS**

### **Architecture, Accessibility, and Housing**

No Report

### **Education, Recreation, and Community Support**

Dawn Thomas reported for Maryann Sabo. She announced the survey has been submitted to the Administration for approval. The committee was asked to provide a distribution list.

### **Executive Committee**

The committee has spent some time talking about updating the ADA business compliance (sticker program). The committee has reached out to Mary D'Angelo regarding contracts signed by previous artists from the past Artists with Limits programs. She believes she still has those documents and will provide them to the committee.

### **Legislative Matters**

Ginger Palmer reported that the Letter for the HR 620 bill has been sent to the Administration for review. She also announced that she has developed a letter for individuals that each member can personalize and send out to the Congressman in their district.

John Leopold asked about the status of the handicap parking fines. Ginger reported that the committee's findings were that the judges were dismissing some of the fines. This information was based on records compiled by the police department. The committee wants to revisit the \$500.00 fine and how the law is written. It was also discussed how the fines on the handicap parking signs are different throughout the county and are not consistent with the law. The committee will be looking into this issue. Discussions followed.

### **Membership**

Iris Littig announced that the committee is waiting on information from the County Executive's office regarding the re-appointments. There is also one appointment that was recommended by the Commission.

### **Public Relations**

Colleen O'Neill Yanchulis reported for Jane Sinclair. Colleen has graciously agreed to be the Commission's Facebook coordinator and plans to have new content posted at least once a

week. She encourages everyone on the Commission to sign onto Facebook and like the Commission's page.

### **Public Safety Outreach**

Debra Luzietti-Myers reported for Nancy Jenkins. The next police academy training is on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 3pm. Joelle Ridgeway will send out an email to the commission to encourage members with a disability to participate in this training session.

### **Transportation**

Audrey Sellers reported for Rich Scordo. She reported they are working on getting more resources for the new Transportation Survey. Greg Africa reported the construction on the Harker Place project in Annapolis started on September 5<sup>th</sup>. The construction crews are adding bus pads, modifying the median, modifying the traffic signal, relocating fire hydrants and providing new crosswalks.

### **OTHER**

- **Alliance Update - None**
- **Maryland Commission on Disability Issues Update - None**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Audrey Sellers announced that ARI is holding a Safety Project program beginning on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks. It is located in Howard County and is a great opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities, age 21 and up, to learn about interpersonal violence and how to prevent it. She also announced that ARI is holding a transportation advocacy group for Anne Arundel County residents with disabilities sometime in September or October. Contact Audrey if you are interested in this program.

Rebecca Hass announced that the library's newest publication of the, "The Happenings" is out. She brought copies with her for distribution.

Ginger Palmer announced that she attended the ADA celebration on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Governor Larry Hogan was the keynote speaker. Secretary Carol A. Beatty, The Maryland Department of Disabilities and Director Kelby Brick, Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were also in attendance. The Maryland Department of Disabilities hosted a traveling Disability History Tour throughout Maryland during July and August 2017.

Meeting adjourned.

[Meeting ended at 2:36 p.m.]