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**City of Salisbury**

**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**December 12, 2019**

**Committee Members Present**

Gregory Tyler

Michael Dyer

Stephen Bullock

Dr. Katherine Jones

Amy Crouse

Barbara Bell

**Committee Members Absent**

Timothy Meagher, *Chairperson*

Amy Crouse

Barbara Bell

**In Attendance**

Laura Baasland, *Department of Water Works Program Specialist*

Julie English, *Mayor’s Office Administrative Assistant*

Virginia Bender

**The Disability Advisory Committee met at 3:00pm in Conference Room #306 of the Government Office Building**

**Call to Order**

The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting was called to order at 3:10 by Mrs. Baasland.

**Introductions and Welcome**

The meeting began with brief introductions of all in attendance.

**Last Meeting Minutes Review**

The minutes from the DAC’s last meeting on September 12, 2019 were reviewed. On a motion put forth by Mr. Tyler and seconded by Dr. Jones, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote in favor.

**Introducing Julie English**

Julie English, the new Administrative Assistant in the Mayor’s Office, introduced herself and explained that she will be taking over Laura Baasland’s role as Liaison to the Committee. The Mayor’s Office has made the executive decision to keep the Disability Advisory Committee close, hence the decision to transition the Liaison role from Ms. Baasland to Ms. English. She said that she will work diligently to serve the Committee and that she has a personal connection to someone with an illness with a high likelihood of leading to a disability, so this Committee has a personal significance to her. Ms. English’s son has been diagnosed with Huntington’s Disease, and the Committee spent some time explaining resources to her that may be beneficial to her son down the road. Ms. English discussed her history as an employee of the City and how she has ended up in her current position. The Committee discussed the work that they do and reflected on some work from the past year.

**Update on Youth Engagement Strategies and Efforts**

Mr. Bullock has spoken with young man named Izayah who is a student at Wicomico High school; he is a certificated special education student who is in the Wicomico Works program and works at McDonald’s. Mrs. Baasland clarified that Mr. Bullock will be the contact for Izayah.

There is a transition and advocacy conference that occurs every two years coming up on March 7, 2020 at WorWic Community College for students with special needs in Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties. The guest speaker at this year’s event is Secretary Coral Beatty from Maryland Department of Disabilities. The event will be advertised similarly to the Pathways Night held recently, also at WorWic.

**Committee Business**

The Committee agreed to continue quarterly meetings in 2020. The meetings will be held in March, June, September, and December. Thursday afternoons at 3pm are still an appropriate date and time for everyone in attendance. Mr. Tyler suggested having a guest speaker that works with dementia support groups locally and confirmed that he does have contact information for those individuals. Dr. Jones was enthusiastic about the possibility of having someone from Disabled American Veterans (DAV) come and address the Committee. Dr. Jones potentially has a contact at DAV that may be willing to come and speak, or at least know someone who is. Mr. Dyer also suggested that the Committee invite someone from Cambridge to address the group to share information and ideas about what Cambridge is doing to support persons with disabilities. Mr. Dyer does have a contact in Cambridge who may be willing to come speak to us or at least suggest the most appropriate person. Mr. Tyler suggested having a discussion about the accessibility of local parks, and the Committee thought it would be prudent to have someone from Parks and Recreation address the Committee. Mr. Tyler also suggested that we work with Comcast to discuss affordable internet rates for low-income persons with disabilities, and discussion about Comcast’s “Internet Essentials” program ensued.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 3:00pm in conference room 306 of the Government Office Building. The Committee would like it to be noted on the record that they are all thinking of Chairperson Tim Meagher and are wishing him well and a speedy recovery.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Dyer and seconded by Ms. Bell and passed by unanimous vote in favor, the DAC meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

**Minutes Recorded By:** Laura Baasland, *Department of Water Works Program Specialist*