



City of Salisbury
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2022

Committee Members Present

Adith Thummalapalli
Jeremy Wolfer
Greg Tyler
Katherine Jones
Cody Drinkwater
Mike Dyer
Ivy McIntyre
Ron Pagano
Michelle Hahn
Amy Crouse

In Attendance

Michele Gregory, City Council representative
Jessie Turner, Mayor's Office Administrative Assistant, City of Salisbury

Call to Order

- The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting was called to order at 3:03pm by Katherine Jones.

Introductions and Welcome

- Committee members introduced themselves and then Adith shared he would be acting Chair for this meeting due to Dominique's resignation.

Last Meeting Minutes Review

- Motion by Katherine and seconded by Mike to review and approve the meeting minutes from March 2021. Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Nomination of 2022 Chairperson

- A motion was made to nominate Adith as 2022 Chairperson following Dom's resignation. The group unanimously agreed to appoint Adith as Chair for the remainder of 2022.

Progress Reports

- Video Update—Goal is to shoot video by October (Disability Awareness Month). Greg suggested including some video from recent events downtown. Ron commented about the lack of curb cuts to get to downtown area. Two of the streets near his house do not have curb cuts. Michele Gregory explained that ADA upgrades have gone through Council and also that Poplar Hill is installing a lift, which could be included in video.
- Social Media—anything that the committee would like to communicate can be directed to Allison Foster, City Media Specialist for her to post on the City's Facebook page.
- Ramp at Visitor Center—Jessie will email Laura Soper for an update and will email the committee.

Agency & Vulnerable Population Update

- Katherine shared that Maryland Department of Disabilities has decided they will only pay \$18k/year towards assistive technology for all counties of the Eastern Shore. She feels this is an act of discrimination against the Eastern Shore. Katherine's organization will no longer be able to offer assistive technology services. She encouraged the group to be vocal advocates for the Eastern Shore.
- Ron encouraged the group to also raise voices during this election season. Michele expressed her agreement and mentioned the idea of a forum to be able to speak with candidates. Ron will check sources to see what information he can gather. Adith mentioned writing an official statement to the State making a case for funding for programs on the Eastern Shore that would support the disabled population. Katherine is pursuing the option of a County level Disability Advisory Committee and sees the City as a model for future groups.

Open Discussion

- Cody asked about meeting more regularly. For 2022 DAC is planning to meet every other month. The need for more frequent meetings can be discussed in the future.
- Adith--Bylaw update: Goal will be to update language and to clarify goals and mission of the committee. Adith suggested a shared document to allow everyone to contribute ideas. Ron recommended a subcommittee would be best to work on the revisions.

Next Meeting Date

- Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm in GOB 306

Adjournment

- The DAC meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Minutes Recorded By: Jessie Turner, City Liaison for the Disability Advisory Committee