



City of Salisbury
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES, 2023
April 13, 2023

Committee Members Present

Adith Thummalapalli
Greg Tyler
Ivy McIntyre
Katherine Jones
Jeremy Wolfer
Mike Dyer
Amy Crouse
Lisa Campbell

Members Absent

Cody Drinkwater
Ron Pagano

In Attendance

Michele Gregory, City Council Liaison
Jessie Turner, Mayor's Office Administrative Assistant, City of Salisbury
Murtaza Aqil, City of Salisbury Intern
Homes For America Representatives

Call to Order

- The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by Adith.

Introductions & Welcome

Last Meeting Minutes Review

- Motion by Katherine and seconded by Ivy to review and approve the meeting minutes from February 2023. The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Progress Reports

- Poplar Hill Lift Installation—ADA lift was installed. ADA compliant doesn't necessary mean accessible, but at this point, the mansion is compliant. The second floor will remain inaccessible, and they probably will not be putting an elevator inside.
- Bylaws Re-Write—Adith is continuing to work with Ron on this. Ron is making final edits and it will be sent to the Committee for review and feedback.
- Ramp Project—Ron sent an email to the group. Katherine asked if we are primarily looking at threshold ramps, and yes...that is what they are. Andy is looking into grants that would offset cost to the City.
- Distribution of Reusable Bags to individuals with disabilities—The Green Team brought approximately 150 long-handled zippered bags and would like them to be distributed to people with disabilities. Several committee members offered suggestions on where bags

could be distributed. Adith explained that bags can be picked up from Dylan Laconich, the City's Sustainability Specialist.

Special Presentation

- Homes For America—HFA has partnered with Mike in the past and recently Mike reached out to them about the need for affordable and accessible housing in Salisbury. It was explained that accessible housing can generally be accomplished, but affordable mean different things. HFA uses federal, state, and local resources. Developers can present proposal to Maryland DCHD for plan for affordable and accessible housing, but resources are relatively limited. There are currently four times the requests as there are resources. HFA desires to see quality affordable and accessible housing on the Eastern Shore. It was stated that the State of Maryland has been setting money aside for targeted populations of those with special needs, and it was noted that partnership is key in producing different kinds of housing.
- Katherine asked what is the number one challenge in being able to create this type of housing in Wicomico County. It was stated again that the competition for resources is tough. Salisbury has been good at eliminating or reducing fees and real estate taxes, but the best plan despite these reductions for developers is to have a well thought out project that meets a need but with less costs.
- The Committee discussed HORIZON and Here is Home, but what else could the City be doing to help incentivize affordable and accessible housing. Michele stated that we need to know what kinds of questions to ask.
- Katherine referenced the 20 acre property that would be perfect for affordable/accessible housing, and Michele would like to visit the site and get Ron Stricker, Director of Housing and Community Development involved in the discussion.

Open Discussion/Other Concerns

- Four way stops can be difficult for people in wheel chairs. Katherine asked if four way stops are required to have cross walks, and Adith stated yes, they are. All crosswalks should have accessibility features, and Adith is planning to talk to Will White (City Transportation Manager) about it.

Agency Updates

- Katherine—Health & Wellness studio is open and is free of charge. She will send out more information. Michele offered that a self-directed advocacy group might like to have an event at the facility. Katherine stated that they were also going to make it available to the County school system.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.