



## CITY OF SALISBURY

### DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2024, 3:00 p.m. Government Office Building 306

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87426783581>

#### **Committee Members Present**

Greg Tyler

Ivy McIntyre

Katherine Jones

Amy Crouse

Ron Pagano

Lisa Campbell

Jessica Cooke

#### **Members Absent**

Jeremy Wolfer

Cody Drinkwater

Sarah Gleason

#### **In Attendance**

Michele Gregory, City Council Liaison

Adith Thummalappalli, Project Engineer City of Salisbury

#### **Call to Order**

- The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Katherine.

#### **Introductions & Welcome**

- Our originally scheduled guests, Mayor Randy Taylor and Deputy Secretary Lisa Belcastro were unable to attend.

#### **Last Meeting Minutes Review**

No minutes to review.

#### **Progress Reports**

## **Updates**

- Adith shared information about the City of Salisbury's online tool for citizen reporting on the website. He guided DAC through the process of making a report and used the example of accessibility issues on roadways.
- Ron requested that the DAC receive a summary of reports from the city so we could grasp on where we need to focus as a committee.
- Michele shared that she would inquire about how we can receive updates on the online reporting.

## **Wheelchair Charging Stations**

- Adith shared that he is working with the Dept. of Transportation to establish stations where individuals can plug-in their batteries for wheelchair use. He determined it was not financially feasible to provide the connectors. He also shared that the chargers will be located inside buildings with surge protection. Amy suggested that a station should be considered at the courthouse, MVA, and the Together Cafe. Katherine suggested the downtown parking garage. Ron shared concerns about citizens using the charging stations for their phones. Michele suggested that the telephone number for our ambassadors be present at all charging stations in the event there is a problem.

## **City Provided Ramps for Downtown Businesses**

- Ron shared that he would reach out to the new mayor so we will not lose the momentum to this great project.

## **Addressing Need for Accessible Public Transportation**

- Adith is waiting for a response from Shore Transit; however, wanted to make the DAC aware that the city is initiating a transit study and is in the process of recruiting an advisory committee. Jessica questioned if there were accessible Ubers in our community and Adith shared that there are none.

## **Potential Project: Curb Cut and Sidewalk Audit**

- Ron shared that a curb cut is needed on Riverside Drive so he can drive to the downtown area without having to cross the busy intersection with the roundabout. He suggested an audit is needed to survey accessibility issues along sidewalks. Katherine shared that the primary role of the DAC is to keep our mayor aware of such issues and she hopes the citizen reporter tool can be used to help highlight the areas of most concern.

## **Moss Hill Issue**

- Jessica shared that she is concerned about the residents of Moss Hill who will be transitioning into new apartments for renovation purposes. She was hoping to form a

volunteer group who can help residents with disabilities move to their new units. Ron and Amy suggested asking for volunteers from Oakridge Baptist Church and Emmanuel Wesleyan Church.

### **Open Captioning Movie bill (SB 400 and HB 264) Letter of Support from DAC**

- Katherine shared the latest updates from HB 264 and the request for all movie theatres to provide at least one open captioned film per week per title. She suggested that the DAC recommend to the mayor a letter of support from the city. Michele shared that the open captions bill falls under ADA regulations and is a benefit for all individuals.

### **Open Discussion/Other Concerns**

- Jessica shared her concerns for individuals residing in nursing facilities and the lack of care that is being witnessed from our AAA. Katherine suggested that residents should contact their ombudsman if they are being neglected or treated unfairly by the privately owned facilities.

### **Agency Updates**

- Accessible Housing Project – Katherine shared that she is still working with MDH for the approval of the vacant 20 acres to be used for the development of low-income housing units.
- Kennedy Krieger Expanding Services on the Shore – Katherine shared that Kennedy Krieger Institute will be visiting the Eastern Shore on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in hopes that they may offer more resources on the shore.
- MDOD town hall meeting- Katherine shared that Bay Area CIL will be hosting a town hall meeting for MDOD, KKI, and DRM on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Virtual invitations will be sent to all DAC members.

Next Meeting (3/14/2024 at 3:00 pm)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ron and seconded by Jessica. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Katherine L.R. Jones*

Katherine L.R. Jones, Chair