



CITY OF SALISBURY
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2024, 3:00 p.m. Virtual ONLY

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87283633227>

Committee Members Present

Katherine Jones

Ron Pagano

Amy Crouse

Ivy McIntyre

Greg Tyler

Jessica Cook

Brandon Theriot

Shanda Ward

Virginia Bender

Members Absent

Jeremy Wolfer

In Attendance

Michele Gregory, City Council Liaison

Adith Thummalapalli, Project Engineer City of Salisbury

Call to Order

- The Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Katherine.

Introductions & Welcome

- All active members introduced themselves and we welcomed new DAC members Brandon Theriot and Shanda Ward.

Last Meeting Minutes Review

- Motion by Greg and seconded by Jessica to review and approve the meeting minutes from July 2024. The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Active DAC Projects – Progress Reports

City Provided Ramps for Downtown Businesses

- Ron shared that he had drafted a letter to the Mayor describing the initiative to provide portable ramps to businesses downtown and had received unofficial positive feedback from the Mayor regarding his enthusiasm for this project. The question of funding for these ramps and if the City would have to foot the bill or if there might be grant funding available was brought up. Katherine mentioned that the Maryland Department of Aging had portable threshold ramps that they could donate for this purpose, and wouldn't cost the City any money. The decision was made to have the Department of Aging donate the ramps and store them at the Bay Area CIL facility for distribution as businesses got onboard and requested ramps, so as to not use up any City storage space for this purpose.
- Ron explained that the next step would be to canvas the downtown area, find businesses that might be in need of a threshold ramp and who want one, and to measure the height of the steps and the width of the doorway where the ramp would be used. Discussion occurred regarding the logistics of storing the ramps, delivering the ramps, and performing the above-mentioned work. Brandon asked some questions about the initiative and Ron answered. Brandon and Jessica volunteered to go out and collect the needed measurements when the time came.
- Ron proposed that the letter for the Mayor be edited to state that the City would bear no financial or logistical responsibility for this project to occur, and that it was simply an opportunity for the City to support the disability community and the retailers downtown who might be missing out on a portion of their potential customer base by having limited accessibility to their businesses. The committee agreed with the proposal and Ron said he would update the letter.

Curb Cut Audit

- Ron explained the idea behind the curb cut audit and the long-term goal to survey all the curbs and crosswalks in the City. Brandon asked questions about this initiative and Ron answered. Discussion occurred regarding the logistics of undertaking such a project and Ron asked if Adith's department, Infrastructure and Development, had ever undertaken such a thing in-house and Adith said he would look into it and see if anything like this had been done before. Discussion moved to the Citizen Reporting Tool and Brandon asked some questions about it, which were discussed by the entire committee.

Guest: Dominique Sessa – Ms. Wheelchair U.S. Competition

- Dominique was unable to attend the meeting due to a last-minute conflict, so this item was tabled for a later date.

DAC Line Item on Annual City Budget

- Brandon brought up the idea of the DAC doing fundraising for any future initiatives and Katherine explained that the DAC would need a line item on the annual City budget in order to do that, and Michele explained the process for getting that to happen. Michele said that she would present the idea at the next council meeting.

Review of Bylaws and Updates

- Adith went through the current DAC bylaws for the benefit of the new members, and asked for feedback from all members for what changes might need to be made. Discussion occurred and Adith took note of all proposed changes to later update the bylaws with. Once those changes are made, Adith will share the final draft for approval by the DAC, and then send it on to Jessie Turner to be read and approved at a city council meeting.

Agency Updates

- Disability Rights Maryland held a “Know Your Rights” workshop at Bay Area CIL earlier in the day to educate people about their rights and accommodations at polling locations.
- Shanda shared that the Eastern Shore Sickle Cell Association would be having a Sickle Cell 5K Walk on 9/14 at the Garland Hayward Center in Princess Anne.

Open Discussion/Concerns for DAC to Address

- Virginia shared that she spoke with Shore Transit about their reduction in para-transit and regular bus service and Jessica stated that she would be interested in engaging with Shore Transit too. Virginia agreed that Shore Transit would benefit from the insight of the DAC and that she would touch base with Jessica about it.

Adjourn

- Next Meeting (11/14/2024 at 3:00 pm)
- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Brandon and seconded by Ron. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adith Thummalapalli

Adith Thummalapalli, City Liaison