



Monday, October 26, 2020
Public Meeting (Virtual) of the Howard County Commission on Disabilities
6:30 – 8:30 PM

PRESENT:
Heidi Burghardt
Cynthia Coburn
Nicole Czarnecki
Ellicott Finkelstein
Joshua Hirsh
Andrea Kolp
Doug Lea
Randy Murbach
Marian Vessels
Mia Williams

ABSENT:
Arthur Gold
Karen Wood
Dr. Riffat Ashai

STAFF:
Erica Lewis
Michelle Henry
Terry Zeigler

GUEST:
Elizabeth Meadows
Peter Hayes

INTERPRETERS:
Brenda Kelly-Frey
Becky Frey

- I. Call to Order**
 - Roll call - Erica
 - Welcome & Review of Rules for virtual meetings – Elliott

- II. Old Business**

- A. CR23-2018 Updates

- 1. Presentation: Peter Hayes, CEO, TranslateLive
Demonstration and discussion of the ILA Pro software and the capabilities for enhancing communication with individuals who are deaf

or hard-of-hearing. Cost is \$1,199.00 which includes one year of service; after one year the annual fee is \$249.00.

2. Presentation: Elizabeth Meadows, Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development.
Discussion of initiatives related to CR23-2018 housing recommendations.

B. Approval of August 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved as written with corrections: Joshua Hirsh’s name spelled incorrectly on page 1 and Randy Murbach’s name spelled incorrectly on page 3.

C. ADA30 Art Contest Update

Has been publicized with a submission deadline of November 30th. Art Contest winners will be announced December 18th in a prerecorded video, containing captioning, audio description and sign language interpretation. Guest speaker will be disability activist Judy Heumann. Need to meet external deadlines for video production. Commissioners will select winners at December meeting. Due to timelines, motion made to reschedule the December 7th meeting to December 2nd, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Motion passed by majority vote. Score sheets and art images will be emailed to Commissioners, so that review and scoring of submissions can be done in advance of the meeting.

III. 7:50 PM - New Business

A. HCAD's recommendation for formation of a task force to change street names. Agenda correction suggestion made: “Resolving Street Name(s) Issue in Howard County.”

The Howard County Association of the Deaf will propose new street name(s), then present to Commission for support.

B. Concerned citizens’ recommendation for waiving the plastic bag tax for people with disabilities. One constituent reported contacting the office of the County Executive regarding an exemption from the newly-implemented plastic bag fees. According to the constituent, some individuals with disabilities cannot use paper bags because these bags lack a handle to grasp for carrying. Plastic bags are needed because

they typically contain a handle, and so an exemption from the plastic bag tax is requested. Another constituent expressed concerns regarding implementation of the plastic bag fee during a pandemic, given the hygiene concerns regarding reusable cloth bags and that people rely on plastic bags for waste disposal.

Motion made for Commission to send two letters - one to the County Executive and the other to the Office of Community Sustainability, expressing concern about the issues raised by the constituent and of the need to consider disability-related accommodations. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Access Committee Update

Next meeting is November 10th, 12:30 to 2:30 pm, via WebEx.

Agenda will focus on updates to the Commission's recommendations in the 23-2018 Report recommendations, and will include these topics:

1. Adult changing tables
2. A comprehensive self-evaluation and transition plan
3. Accessible parking
4. The process for revising the Design Manual/other County Standards that pertain to facility accessibility.
5. Update regarding construction of the new Courthouse

D. Provider Committee Update

Next meeting is November 18th, 9:30 to 11:30 am, via WebEx. As a follow-up to the CR23-2018 recommendations regarding grant awards, the guest speaker will be Megan Godfrey from the Office of Community Partnerships, who will be discussing the Human Services Grants Redesign.

E. Planning Advisory Committee Update

Commission to have virtual meeting with Elliott and Howard County Government staff to discuss the Howard County Master Plan and addressing the needs of residents with disabilities. Meeting proposed for evening of November 16th.

F. Transit and Pedestrian Advisory Group Update

The County Executive is holding a virtual Transportation Town Hall the evening of November 18th. Erica to email the event details to Commissioners.

G. Annual Report

Please let Erica know of your participation in relevant disability-related activities during 2020, so that these can be included in the annual report.

H. Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule

Motion made to hold six meetings per year, on the fourth Monday evening every other month, except for December. Motion passed unanimously. Access committee meetings will be held quarterly on the second Tuesday, 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Provider committee meetings will be held quarterly on the third Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Erica to distribute the approved 2021 meeting schedule.

IV. 8:25 PM - Announcements

V. 8:30 PM - Adjournment

To request accommodations for participation in Commission meetings, please call 410-313-6402 (voice/relay) or send email to CoD@howardcountymd.gov at least five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) prior to the meeting date.