

**Office of Equity & Civil Rights
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2023**

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Department
2. Aloma Bouma (Chair) – National Federation of the Blind
3. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
4. Jack Elam – Legislative – Housing Authority of Baltimore City
5. Janice Jackson – Commissioner - Consumer Advocate
6. Khalilah Yancey – Emergency Preparedness - BCFD
7. Kimberly (Michelle Grade) – Sinai Hospital
8. Laetitia Griffin - BCDOT
9. Rochelle Purnell – Baltimore City Health Department
10. Willie Fields – Consumer
11. Yojinde Paxton – Baltimore City Public Schools

Guest speaker:

12. Alexis Blackmon – Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs

Office of Equity and Civil Rights staff:

13. Viola Woolums – Legal Counsel
14. Robin Drummond – Special Assistant

I. Welcome/Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Aloma Bouma at 1:12 pm.

II. Opening Remarks

- a. Opening remarks were given by Chairperson Aloma Bouma.

III. Director's Report

- a. The Director's report was given by Viola Woolums.
 - i. Administrative Updates
 1. OECR continues to interview candidates for positions with the Police Accountability Board, Wage Commission, and Equity Division.
 2. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 1:00pm.
 - ii. Legislative Updates

1. OCER continues to work with the MCD to review and update its governing statute: Baltimore City Code Article 1, Subtitle 23.
- iii. Accessibility Concerns
 1. OECR worked with Recreation and Parks in their efforts to increase accessibility of AFRAM this year.
 2. Members who attended gave their impression of the festival as well as accessibility concerns.
 - a. Heavy walking and performance area required walking downhill
 - b. Main stage had ASL interpreters, and ADA viewing area was not appropriately labeled
 - c. Difficult to find restrooms or ADA area, once inside.
 - d. Digital maps were not accessible to seniors or those with vision impairment
 - e. Tree stumps were in the path of travel
 - f. Bugs were a problem
 - g. Assistance leaving in a hurry via carts was questionable.
- iv. OCER Staff:
 1. Currently investigating four inquiries about lack of accessibility.
 2. Received one inquiry about a dangerous intersection in Bolton Hill. OECR confirmed that DOT has engineered an accommodation for this location and is scheduling construction.
 3. Investigating 3 complaints related to accessible parking in 3 different City neighborhoods.
- v. BCIT is currently working on an overhaul of the City website with a third-party vendor. They have asked for volunteers to test components of the website for accessibility.
- b. The following meetings are listed below:
 - i. September 27, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - ii. October 25, 2023, 1:00 pm
 - iii. November 22, 2023, 1:00 pm

IV. Approval of the minutes

- a. The May 24, 2023, minutes were not approved.

V. MCD Chairperson Update

- a. Chair Aloma Bouma welcomed comments and recommendations from MCD committee members.
- b. Report from the Ethics Board that a few people have not filed financial disclosures. If not filed, there is a risk of being removed from the MCD Board.

- c. Chair Aloma asked if MCD would like to do a summit to focus on improving membership. David Greenberg would like to focus on outreach to increase membership.
- d. Rochelle Purnell wanted to hear case summaries and bring accessibility concerns from the community to MCD.
- e. Chair Aloma Bouma talked about Article I revisions that started in December/January, and that MCD is separate from OECR.

VI. Commission Subcommittees Discussion

VII. Open forum

- 1. Members discussed having an MCD Summit in July 2023 to recruit members.
- 2. Janice Jackson would like to have a speaker to come and talk about the Open Meetings Act.

V. Closing

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023, via Zoom.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Special Assistant
Office of Equity and Civil Rights