

Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement
Mayor's Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2020

Participants:

1. Adam Levine – Law Dept
2. Aloma Bouma – National Federation of the Blind
3. Anil Lewis – National Federation of the Blind
4. C. Maria Stokes – Access Committee
5. Carol Young (Acting Chair) - DGS
6. Crystal Bright - MEOM
7. David Greenberg – League for People with Disabilities
8. Jack Elam – Housing Authority of Baltimore City
9. Janice Jackson – Consumer Advocate
10. Jessica Salmond – self advocate
11. Khalilah Yancey – Emergency Preparedness
12. Khary Davis -
13. Marlene S. Hendler – Citizen/consumer
14. Martin French – BC Planning Dept
15. Michael Trentadue – Citizen – Accessible Tech Pro
16. Mike King
17. Velma Early – Risk Management - ORM
18. Willie Fields – Consumer
19. Yojinde Paxton
20. Office of Civil Rights staff:
 - a. Cedric McCray – Deputy Director
 - b. Lisa Kelly
 - c. Sharonda L. Huffman – Accessibility Coordinator
 - d. Robin Drummond – Special Assistant
 - e. Hugh Scoggins – Program Compliance Officer
 - f. Lauren Jackson

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sharonda Huffman at approximately 1:07 pm.

II. Director's Report

- a. Administrative
 - i. Darnell Ingram no longer with the Agency

- ii. Raemond Parrott – new Director
- b. Outreach
 - i. Ms. Huffman spoke about accessibility on the various Websites and how information can be accessible. She stated hired a person to assist with Accessibility for their State Websites. She stated that she will present this information to the City to help their Websites as well.
 - ii. City is only allowing their Agencies to use Webex and not Zoom.
 - iii. Mayor’s Commission on Disability cannot have official meetings until the Commissioners are in place.
- c. Ms. Huffman opened the floor to participants to give a brief overview of the hearing and interview process to become a Commissioner.
 - i. Comments were about:
 - 1. Education
 - 2. History and background
 - 3. Why you would be a good candidate
 - 4. Experience
 - 5. Vision
 - 6. Skills
- d. Ms. Huffman would like to know if anyone would be interested in assisting with various projects including updating the membership handbook and by-laws.
- e. **Action:** Ms. Huffman will be sending out information throughout the summer. In addition, she will send out invitations for trainings. Note: They will not be official meetings.
- f. Ms. Huffman will be moving forward with the disability town hall. Suggested talks:
 - i. ADA Network Representative
 - 1. Disability rights
 - ii. Panelists
 - 1. Housing
 - 2. Equity
 - iii. Other ideas
 - 1. Add Disability to the Equity initiative
 - 2. Employment
- g. Ms. Huffman hopes to have all Commissioners sworn-in by September. With the new administration, she hopes that Disabilities will become a major focal point. She would like participants to get involved in legislative issues by looking at the Baltimore City Code to help more Baltimore more accessible.
- h. **Action:** Ms. Huffman, Ms. Young and Mr. Scoggins will be meeting over the summer with all the ADA Coordinators. She will be updating the list of coordinators and work on the grievances process. Agencies will over 50 employees must have an ADA Coordinators and those who have less than 50 will report directly to Ms. Huffman’s office.

- i. Mr. Anil Lewis gave a brief overview of the National Federation of the Blind virtual convention. Registration is closed but you can get the information online. Agenda is still in process but should be updated within the next two weeks.
- j. Action: Ms. Huffman has recorded some of the events that she has attended and plans to replay those events during the month of July and email the links. In addition, she is planning to send out a newsletter regarding trainings, conferences and events in the future.
- k. Ms. Huffman stated that she has been working on Voter access and Disability Rights Maryland. She welcomed any feedback on voting issues.
 - i. Mr. Anil Lewis spoke about Ms. Lou Ann Blake who is the NFB expert on voting access.
 - ii. Ms. Jessica Salmond spoke about issues for those who needed assistance in completing mail-in ballots, ie. wrong zip-codes, votes placed in wrong box, and votes not counted. She would like this issue fixed before the November election.
 - iii. Mr. Fields stated that his absentee ballot arrived late.

III. Approval of the minutes

- i. February 26, 2020 notes had three corrections with three names to be added to attendance.

IV. Commissioner's Report and Open Forum

- i. Committee updates:
 - 1. No updates
- ii. Ms. Aloma Bouma asked if the contact tracing software is accessible and if the online training and the app have been checked. Action: Ms. Huffman will follow-up with an ADA Coordinator from the Health Department.
- iii. Ms. Jessica Salmond spoke about areas of discrimination that need to be addressed.
 - 1. Racism
 - 2. Voting
 - 3. Disabilities
 - 4. Employment
 - a. Disabilities
 - b. Charges
 - 5. Other topics
- iv. Status of Commissioner nominees: Ms. Huffman will follow-up with the office staff regarding the status of commissioner nominees. She will send out an email and follow-up with all nominees.
- v. Next meeting will be October 23, 2019.

There was no further business to discuss.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Carole Young adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Administrative Coordinator
Office of Equity and Civil Rights