

Frederick County Commission on Disabilities

February 11, 2019

MINUTES

1. The meeting was held at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street in Frederick, Maryland, on February 11, 2019 starting at 6 pm.
2. Members present: Nadine Autry, Barb Trader, Amy Crehan, Marsha Flowers and Karen Duffy.
3. County Council Liaison to the Commission on Disabilities Steve McKay was present.
4. County staff liaison Miles Ward was also present.
5. The following members of the public were present: Wyatt Massey, Steve Buckley, Pat Fleet, Amanda Fleet, and John Gretz. Sign language interpreter Pearl Sims was also present.
6. Chair Nadine Autry called the meeting to order.
7. John Gretz expressed concerns about the Commission's failure to hold meetings, approve minutes, elect officers, comply with its bylaws, and formally adopt the quorum interpretation issued by the Frederick County attorney.
8. Nadine Autry said that she and Amy Crehan are now members of the Frederick County Transportation Services Advisory Council, and that they intend to do everything possible to make regional transportation more accessible to people with disabilities by identifying needs, increasing public awareness and influencing public policy by advising elected officials and decision-makers.
9. Nadine Autry gave a brief summary of calls that had come in to the Commission. One involved finding space for a disabled veteran's service dog, and the person was put in touch with a person who works closely with veterans' issues. Chair Autry also spoke about an article that had recently appeared in the newspaper about the County's progress on its written plan for mitigation of barriers to accessibility within public rights of way.
10. Steve Buckley, the Director of the Frederick County Developmental Center, was the evening's guest speaker. He informed the Commission about a number of services, events and activities that the Developmental Center offers to adults, children and families with developmental disabilities. These include a school based program that provides both occupational and physical therapy in schools. Frederick County is the only county in Maryland to do this. A dental clinic offers services from birth to age 18. An audiologist is also available.
11. New members Karen Duffy and Marsha Flowers introduced themselves and explained their interests and backgrounds, and why they wished to serve on the Commission.

12. Chair Nadine Autry explained that one or more members of the Commission need to take and pass the online training course on the Open Meetings Act. Karen Duffy and Miles Ward both indicated they had done this. Ms. Autry encouraged other members to do this.

13. Marsha Flowers brought up the issue of a Deaf Center, saying the County needs one. There are 5,000 deaf people in Frederick County. A place is needed for meetings and services. The Mayor of Frederick has been asked to make this a priority because deaf people in the County don't know where to go for assistance.

14. Nadine Autry said that members of the Commission are encouraged to attend the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee Resource Fair on March 16, 2019 at Rock Creek School. She will be there and is willing to make space available for the COD at the table she will have for the Freedom Center.

15. Chair Autry said that the online version of the Commission's *Keys to Independence* resource guide needs to be checked and updated. Members will be asked in the coming months to assist with this.

16. Several informational flyers and handouts were made available, including ones describing spring 2019 courses at FCC for adults with intellectual disabilities, and the formation of an Alternative Baseball league for teens and adults with autism and special needs.

17. The meeting was adjourned.