

MINUTES

**Pinellas County Council for Person with Disabilities
June 08, 2021 at 10:00AM
Eagle Lake Park Shelter #3
1800 Keen Road, Largo FL 33771**

10:06 The Meeting was called to order by Chair Jody Armstrong (Disability Achievement Center)

10:02 Roll call

The following members were present:

Chair Jody Armstrong (Disability Achievement Center)

Jack Humburg (Boley Center)

Karen Higgins (PARC)

Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers)

Lindsey Grove (Justice)

Ross Silvers (PTSA)

Angel Overly (PVA)

Kerry Carlisle (Peters)

Aubrey Posey (Seel)

Chair Armstrong announced that a Quorum was present. Present for the meeting were PCHOR Director Mr. Jeffery Lorick, PCHOR Equal Opportunity Coordinator Alana Lewis, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney Keiah Townsend, and Kyle Romano from the DIS/Ableist Network.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Pinellas County Office of Human Rights
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, 5th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756
PHONE: (727) 464-4880
FAX: (727) 464-4157
TDD: (727) 464-4062
WEBSITE: pinellascounty.org/humanrights

10:07 A brief introduction and update was made from all the members present in the meeting.

10:21 Ms. Overly made a motion to pass prior minutes with Mr. Silvers seconding. Motion passed.

10:22 Under old business, Chair Armstrong brought up the Supervisor of Elections and the road map project plan for Pinellas County. The Paciello Group will be referred later to Director Jeffery Lorick (PCHOR).

10:24 Introduction of Ms. Lynda Morrill Pinellas County Business Technology Service. Ms. Morrill spoke on the launching of a new project concerning website governance in regard to ADA accessibility; she will be liaison for this project.

10:25 Ms. Morrill reached out to Chair Armstrong in regard to having council members teaming with the Pinellas County Marketing and Communication Department to test their website. The testing will be available by late July or early August this year. They are interested in knowing what their users experience are, and what tools can be useful for the website.

10:26 Chair Armstrong suggested a brief discussion with the members to provide feedback for the website.

10:27 Mr. Ross Silvers asked Ms. Morrill if they were seeking feedback from other users for the website beside this group.

10:28 Ms. Morrill responded that she had already received feedback from different county commissioners, and testing is being done with a diverse group of testers.

10:29 Mr. Silvers suggested to outreach to other organization to find their opinions and get good representation of all kinds of people with different disabilities. He was willing to participate to help the county.

10:30 Ms. Morrill informed the Council that there are different ways to look at the website and she was willing to provide different task and her group is interested in gathering the information for all those who can provide feedback.

10:31 Ms. Angel Overly (PVA) asked Mrs. Morrill to provide her contact information and too talk with the libraries and different communities specially the visual impaired.

10:32 Ms. Morrill provided information on how the website will look and how the user experience will be when they use it. There will specific tasks sent to the individual tester, where there is no need to look a thousand webpages to provide the feedback.

10:33 Ms. Mary Burrell from Pinellas County Emergency Management provided information on the user experience for the Emergency Management website.

10:34 Ms. Angel Overly (PVA) will provide feedback from the people in her organization and what tools they used to get access to websites. She also suggested to reach out to colleges and school students for feedback, since they rely on the information found in the Pinellas County websites for educational purposes.

10:37 Chair Armstrong asked Assistant County Attorney Townsend if they need a motion to approve a partnership or an agreement.

10:38 Kyle Romano (DIS/ABLEIST Network) spoke about disabled people seeking employment. He thinks this approach will help them to get an employment opportunity. After this project is finished many of the testers can transition for employment opportunities.

10:40 Ms. Morrill spoke about Pinellas County building a partnership with this group to improve the value of the community that is part of the process and that it can generate jobs in the future. There are private companies that provide the testing like the Paciello Group, that the Commissioners appointed to create a partnership and gather the feedback from the community to provide the service.

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She also provided information about the diversity dashboard project her group is working on with Office of Human Rights to get statistics of people who apply for jobs, and the job posting at the county website.

10:43 Chair Armstrong asked Ms. Morrill to reach out to her with the information and the information will be provided to entire board in accordance with the Sunshine laws.

10:44 Ms. Mary Burrell from Pinellas County Emergency Management talked about the need of volunteers in disasters and the different roles that they have during an emergency, and what they can offer, before and after the storms. Her department will launch a website next week for any member of the community who is interested in volunteering. Besides the volunteer program there are internship opportunities in another program to get working experience.

10:44 Arrival of Director Jeffery Lorick (PCHOR).

10:45 Ms. Overly suggested to Ms. Burrell to hire High School Seniors to volunteer or to mentor.

10:46 Ms. Burrell responded that her department is small and doesn't work with high schools' students, however she provided information for volunteer work for them at the 911 center, where they can get training and hired.

10:48 Ms. Burrell spoke about of one of her goals, which is to reach the isolated communities, the disabled, deaf of hearing and visually impaired through the Talking Library to get information to people to get prepare for disasters. This meeting will help in her mission to get the information out to people.

10:50 Ms. Burrell briefed the group about the ways the information is being more accessible for the people, and how the shelters that the county provides that are ADA accessible. Her department has made some improvement with the feedback she received. The Marketing and Communication Department has also educational videos for the hurricane season and for Covid with ASL interpreters. She also spoke about the Emergency Department website live chat and the two mobile app called, Ready Pinellas and Alert Pinellas. The public can sign up via email, phone, or text to receive important information. Ms. Burrell also

mentioned about reaching the community making a survey on YouTube, and Podcasts created for Disasters and ways to improve the ways the information can reach the people.

10:58 Arrival of Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers).

10:59 Ms. Burrell and Chair Armstrong discuss the next VOAD meeting on June 15, 2021.

11:00 Departure of Karen Higgins.

11:01 Mr. Silvers asked Ms. Burrell to have a Zoom meeting for disability advisory to give more information for shelters focusing on the ADA community.

11:02 Ms. Overly asked Ms. Burrell about the phone calls people received during emergencies from Alert Pinellas for people with special needs, if these calls are coming from people working for the county.

11:03 Ms. Burrell's response was yes, these calls are made by county workers that do the surveys for the shelters and transportation of people with special needs.

11:04 Chair Armstrong congratulated and asked Ms. Deborah Figgs- Sanders (Flowers) to introduce herself. Ms. Figgs-Sanders introduced herself representing District 5 for the St. Petersburg City Council, she welcomed all the new members and old members.

11:11 Chair Armstrong went over the agenda with Director Jeffery Lorick (PCOHR) under old business for the Picello group and under new business the St. Pete Visibility Ordinance.

11:12 Mr. Humburg spoke about the St. Pete Visibility ordinance and he will follow up with email communication.

11:13 Chair Armstrong requested a letter of support from council members for a permit application for the Mobil map. Motion was passed.

11:14 Chair Armstrong made a motion to adjourn, the next meeting will be September 8, 2021, 14 S. Ft Harrison Pinellas, Clearwater