

PINELLAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2021 at 10:00AM
Clerks of the Courts, large conference room, 4th floor
315 Court St., Clearwater FL 33756

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armstrong called the meeting to order by Chair Armstrong at 10:05am.

ROLL CALL

Present

Chair Jody Armstrong (Disability Achievement Center)
Kelli Mondello (Gerard)
Jack Humburg (Boley Center)
Steven Cleveland (Florida Dream Center)

Not Present, absent excused

Karen Higgins (PARC)
Harriet Crozier (AAA)
Linsey Grove (Justice)
Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers)
Aubrey Posey (Seel) *wasn't notified*
Kerry Carlisle (Peters) *wasn't notified*

Unexcused absence

Ross Silvers (Eggers)
Angel Overly (PVA)

Others Present

Jeffery Lorick, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights Director
Keiah Townsend, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney
Betina Baron, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights Compliance Manager
Daniel Shutzsmith, Pinellas County Communications
Lynda Morrill, Pinellas County Business Technology Services (BTS)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

Chair Armstrong tabled minutes due to lack a of quorum.

OLD BUSINESS/PENDING ACTION

COUNTY WEBSITE UPDATE- Ms. Morrill noted that BTS has formed an Accessibility committee. Ms. Morrill advised that the Property Appraiser office is awaiting a follow up from Chair Armstrong to engage. Ms. Morrill added that she is working with Director Lorick on the ADA Transitional Plan to address digital accessibility. Ms. Morrill noted that BTS has contracted a vendor to remediate documents.

Chair Armstrong inquired as to the number of individuals that have completed the testing. Ms. Morrill noted that the Property Appraiser's Office website will go live in the next 90 days. Mr. Shutzsmith noted that there is a need for more testers. Director Lorick requested an email for Council members to solicit more volunteers.

Mr. Shutzsmith mentioned that the testing includes feedback on devices including screen readers. Mr. Shutzsmith noted that the focus now is on the content for website readability. Mr. Shutzsmith noted that the plan is to complete testing by January 16, 2022. Mr. Shutzsmith advised that there are 500 testers from the public. Mr. Shutzsmith identified the three methods of testing: series of tasks (audible, screen recording), testing high traffic pages and free flow testing.

Director Lorick thanked Ms. Morrill and BTS for their partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

MOBIMAT UPDATE- Chair Armstrong shared that there is interest from 19 municipalities. Chair Armstrong noted that Madeira Beach is one of the first beaches requesting FDEP permitting and other beaches to follow. Chair Armstrong noted that Indian Shores is ready but waiting for the County to complete work at Tiki Gardens before requesting permits. Chair Armstrong stated that St. Pete Beach has three locations and awaiting the engineer's drawings. In addition, the County will move to Redington shores when complete with refurbishment projects. Pasco County waiting for environmental permitting process. Chair Armstrong shared that the pro bono Engineer has been wonderful.

Director Lorick noted that Parks and Rec will be invited to the next meeting. Council member inquired as to if there is anything the Council can do to expedite the process. Chair Armstrong advised that the Board has sent a support letter and the Council also has supportive allies.

COUNCIL REQUEST TO ALLOW ALTERNATES- Chair Armstrong noted that individual appointments by the County Commissioners are listed on the Board roster however, individuals representing agencies are not listed. Chair Armstrong posed the question to Attorney Townsend for agencies to send alternates.

Attorney Townsend advised that there is no statutory authority that allows alternates or proxies. Chair Armstrong asked if the Council could advocate for a change to the Ordinance to enable alternates. Attorney Townsend stated that the Council can submit a request with a letter (proposal). Chair Armstrong tabled the discussion to vote at the next meeting.

Ms. Mondello inquired about voting by email. Attorney Townsend indicated that the ordinance does not allow voting by email.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN- Director Lorick noted that the ADA transition plan is in motion. OHR is partnering with BTS and the other appointing authorities to prepare information required for the plan. Director Lorick requested for the results of testing from BTS and Communications. Ms. Morrill noted that BTS has formed an ADA committee.

Mr. Humburg added that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is looking for a good faith effort. Director Lorick thanked Mr. Humburg for his support. Director Lorick noted that the plan includes a review of policies and procedures and website remediation. Ms. Morrill added that they are working with the vendor to create ADA accessible documents. Mr. Shutzsmith also noted that changes/testing will be ongoing.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Armstrong tabled elections due to lack a of quorum. Notice of Elections to be sent to Board members. Ms. Mondello followed up on a strategy, Chair Armstrong noted that it was County driven but inquired with the Council as to what the County needs are.

Ms. Mondello stated that the Council needs to address bus stops accessibility. Director Lorick requested for Council member to send a request for accessibility review of limited sidewalk/crosswalk and wheelchair ramp at 34th Ave.

Ms. Mondello added a request to identify bus stop with or without coverings/shelters. Chair Armstrong reiterated that the disability community has legislative support. Director Lorick suggested to Attorney Townsend to ensure that the members operate within the scope of the Council.

COUNCIL OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Armstrong noted that City of Clearwater has jurisdiction over the walkway at Countryside Mall. Chair Armstrong spoke to the Mayor and City Manager to create a committee. Chair Armstrong suggested for the council to identify persons willing to serve on potential Clearwater ADA Committee. Director Lorick noted that the walkway is ADA compliant.

Chair Armstrong celebrates Disability Achievement Center 50th Anniversary fundraiser on February 26, 2022, Chair Armstrong to share information.

Mr. Cleveland noted that there was an increase in families fed from 2,400 last year between Christmas and Thanksgiving and 2,200 at Thanksgiving alone this year.

Director Lorick noted that St. Petersburg has passed a lawful source of income Ordinance to protect persons with source of incomes including disability and section 8. Director Lorick also noted that there is a discussion regarding enforcement of the ordinance. Mr. Humburg noted that Point in Time (PIT) is upcoming, Chair Armstrong requested an update in March.

Mr. Humburg announced Boley Center's fundraiser, Jingle Bell Run on December 8, 2021. Mr. Cleveland shared t-shirt/clothing business information. Ms. Mondello announced that her company, Learning Independence For Tomorrow, is in the process of expanding by acquiring a YMCA. Director Lorick offered to share announcements to the Council.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Armstrong provided tentative meeting dates for next meeting(s) on March 7, 2022, June 6, 2022, September 12, 2022, and December 5, 2022 at 10am. Location to be confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Armstrong adjourned meeting at 10:55.