

PINELLAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2022 at 10:00AM

**Pinellas County Extension, Magnolia Room
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo FL**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. A quorum was not met to have a formal meeting.

Board Members Present

Jody Armstrong, Chair (Disability Achievement Center)	
Kerry Carlisle (Peters)	Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers)
Linsey Grove (Justice)	Aubrey Posey (Seel)

Board Members Absent (Excused)

Harriet Crozier (Area Agency on Aging)	Michelle Detweiller (PARC)
Jack Humburg (Boley Center)	Richard LaBelle (Family Network on Disabilities)
Keli Mondello (Gerard)	Angel Overly (PVA)
Ross Silvers (Eggers)	

Board Members Absent (Unexcused)

Steven Cleveland (Long)

Others Present

Betina Baron (Office of Human Rights)	Lendel Bright (City of St Petersburg)
Michael Ciafone, Guest	Lynda Morrill (PC Business Technology Services)
Carol Strickland (PC Office of Human Rights)	Keiah Townsend (PC County Attorney's Office)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Quorum not met – minutes were not reviewed

DISCUSSION

VIRTUAL MEETING- A suggestion was made to move these meetings to either Teams or Zoom for convenience for the board members so a quorum could be met. Since it is a Sunshine meeting, it would not be possible at this time. In recent years with the pandemic, making us under a state of emergency, exceptions were made. The state of emergency has been lifted, and so have the exceptions.

Michael Ciafone spoke in regard to the beach access mats. He stated that 28% in Pinellas County are mobility challenged and would find the mats useful to go to the water.

COUNTY WEBSITE UPDATE- Ms. Morrill (PC-BTS) stated that the county website is moving along. She received word from Dan Schutzsmith (Marketing & Communications) that they will be reaching out soon to obtain testers of the site, which will take 4-6 weeks.

ADA AWARENESS TRAINING- Mr. Bright (SP) brought up ADA Awareness training. The City of St Petersburg has a certified ADA Coordinator for professional training as well as viewing the website for accessibility.

BEACH ACCESS UPDATE- Sand Key and Fort De Soto permits have been approved; Rockaway and lot 42 are in process. It was believed that Tarpon Springs did not need a permit but realized they do need a permit from environmental protection. There is forward motion on this project, and more ribbon cutting ceremonies will be coming soon. The Madeira Beach ribbon cutting ceremony was great.

There was discussion about beaches having wheelchairs available for beach access: both manual wheelchairs and motorized, made specifically for beach. Clearwater has two wheelchairs now and they're continually being used, so they will be getting more. Fort De Soto has manual floating wheelchairs.

QUORUM DISCUSSION- County Attorney Townsend mentioned different options to consider when trying to get a quorum for these meetings, in order to move business along. She also mentioned that none of these options can be voted on until a quorum under the current guidelines are met. The options are:

- the board members from outside agencies send an alternate that have the same qualifications as the official board member
- any board member can send an alternate that meets with the same qualifications as the official board member
- lower the quorum number to 5

She has written these options out for the voting process but mentions again that there can be no vote until a quorum is met under the current regulations. A question was asked to have maybe a hybrid type of meeting in order to vote. The regulations as stated indicates that voting has to be done in person, and to change how voting is done is a process.

A non-board member suggested that sending several emails reminders, and follow up with phone calls could help. A board member then recommended holding a special meeting outside of the normally scheduled meetings, with the sole purpose of voting for the things that have been continually tabled; and changing the language of the reminder email to state a quorum must be met in order to do the voting. It was also suggested to confirm attendance prior to the meeting so that if we need to cancel due to lack of quorum, we can do so in a timely manner.

Chair Armstrong has been watching to see if TBARTA will receive funding for late night transportation. It's helpful for those without transportation and who also work at night to have affordable transportation.

Chair Armstrong brought up another effort to consider working on damage to wheelchairs (electronic chairs specifically) at airports. It seems that when the chairs go through baggage handling, damage occurs, and these are not cheap to repair or replace. Ms. Morrill stated that she'd initiate an introduction for Chair Armstrong with St Petersburg/Clearwater International (PIE).

The discussion ended at 11:02 am.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING- Monday, September 12, 2022, Pinellas County Extension's Magnolia Room, 12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo.