

# **PINELLAS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**September 12, 2022, at 10:00AM  
Pinellas County Extension, Magnolia Room  
12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo FL 33774**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### Present

Jody Armstrong, Chair (Disability Achievement Center)  
Harriet Crozier (Area Agency on Aging)  
Linsey Grove (Justice)  
Jack Humburg (Boley Center)  
Angel Overly (PVA)  
Aubrey Posey (Seel)  
Ross Silvers (Eggers)

#### Not Present, absent excused

Michelle Detweiller (PARC)  
Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers)  
Keli Mondello (Gerard)  
Richard LaBelle (Misti Pollaro) (Family Network on Disabilities)

#### Unexcused absence

Kerry Carlisle (Peters)  
Steven Cleveland (Florida Dream Center)

#### Others Present

Betina Baron, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights Compliance Manager  
Lynda Morrill, Pinellas County Business Technology Services (BTS)  
Carol Strickland, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights  
Keiah Townsend, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney  
Other interested parties

**MOBIMAT UPDATE-** Chair Armstrong spoke of MobiMats being on hold due to turtle season. She mentioned that they were a big hit. Reddington Shores has not had permits issued as of yet, while Pasco County is having a ribbon cutting in the near future. Some ribbon cuttings and celebrations are forthcoming.

**GUEST SPEAKER-** Guest Captain Thomas Griffin with Bird Dog Boats Co. was the guest speaker. Bird Dog Boats, Inc. is a nonprofit organization providing adaptive boating for people using wheelchairs or having other accessibility requirements. They operate throughout Florida for the last five years. They partner with many organizations to provide group events and private boat charters with 212 voyages to date. They receive grants to assist with their funding, the most recent covers 30 boat charters and 30 track chair outings. These outings are completely 100% free to the user in County and city parks in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Marion and Manatee counties. There are other organizations to cover other parts of the state and in state parks.

**COUNTY WEBSITE UPDATE-** Dan is now a part of BTS. The new website will be launched in October. There will be an opportunity to look at the site prior to launch. One glitch with screen readers is being addressed. Classes are offered every month to web admins for remediation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** A quorum was met at this meeting. The September 2021 and December 2021 minutes were approved unanimously. The March 2022 minutes were approved after a date correction. June 2022 minutes were not printed and provided at the meeting; therefore, they were tabled until the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS / PENDING ACTION**

**Keiah Townsend, Assistant County Attorney-Council request to amend ordinance.** Ms. Townsend described several options of amending the ordinance in order to address a quorum issue with the Council. Options included an agency to have an alternate or appoint a proxy and lowering the quorum from 7 to 5. If either, or both, is chosen, the recommendation needs to be brought before the Board of County Commissioners for approval. A question was asked if the alternate would be for the agency only, or for all Council members. Another question was asked about a virtual option for meetings. Virtual meetings were approved only during a state of emergency, which we are no longer under, so the option is not available. Pros and cons were discussed by each of the members who were present. The Council agreed unanimously to lower the quorum to 5 and agencies to provide alternates.

The Family Network on Disabilities has submitted a nomination to replace representative Rich LaBelle with Misti Pollaro. A motion was made and was seconded to accept the nomination. The Council approved unanimously.

**DECEMBER MEETING-** Election of officers will be a topic for the December meeting. Also deferred to this meeting: scheduling issues (location and time) can be discussed in the December meeting along with the 2023 schedule; and PSTA Bus Stop Update.

Between now and December there will be Mobimat ribbon cutting ceremonies. The County will be having theirs all at one time, date to be announced.

December 5, 2022 is the next meeting.

**COUNCIL OPEN DISCUSSION / ANNOUNCEMENTS-** PSTA Update DART is now called Access, has an app you can download for free, and serves people with disabilities. PSTA received a grant to provide cross-county trips from Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Pinellas County has modified the eligibility so that those with disabilities can utilize this new program.

Disability Achievement Center – Adaptive Family Night, a new program will have their first event on 9/22/22, with one each month through December 2022. The first one is an introductory to find out what kind of recreation the families would like to see.

Meeting adjourned.