

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

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**December 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM**  
**Pinellas County Extension, Magnolia Room**  
**12520 Ulmerton Rd, Largo FL 33774**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Jody Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Present**

Jody Armstrong, Chair (Disability Achievement Center)  
Ross Silvers, Vice Chair (Eggers)  
Kerry Carlisle (Peters)  
Doreen Caudell (Latvala)  
Deborah Figgs-Sanders (Flowers)  
Linsey Grove (Justice)  
Jack Humburg (Boley Center)  
Todd Jennings (Scott)  
Kimberly Rankine (Long)  
Stuart Strikowski, Area on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas

#### **Not Present – Excused/Unexcused**

Misti Pollaro, Secretary (Family Network on Disabilities) – Excused Absence  
Michelle Detweiller (PARC) – Excused Absence  
Angel Overly (PVA) – Excused Absence

#### **Others Present**

Betina Baron, Compliance Manager, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights  
Greg Milam, Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources  
Carol Strickland, Pinellas County Office of Human Rights  
Keiah Townsend, Pinellas County Assistant County Attorney  
Other interested guests

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** A quorum was met at this meeting. The minutes from September 11, 2023, pending edits to remove reoccurring agenda item for PSTA, and updating “any code” with “Municode”, were unanimously approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS/PENDING ACTION**

- **MobiMat Update** – Ft DeSoto has “T’s” so that one just doesn’t stop at the end of the walkway. The mats are throughout Pinellas and Pasco counties.

- Keiah Townsend, Ordinance Amendment Update – the Municode is not updated yet, but does have a link that identifies those changes including quorum size, alternate agency members, etc.
- PSTA Bus Stop Accessibility
- Status of Property Appraiser’s Testing

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Linda Arroyo, Caregiver Presentation – Ms. Arroyo gave a presentation about support groups for caregivers. Caregivers can and do experience burnout, need to get rest and refreshed, as they give so much to those they’re caring for. The Disability Achievement Center hosts a support group the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Also, ALF’s offer a day program so the caregiver can have a day.
- Sportsability Alliance Beach Accessibility Database – there is a survey (QR Code) when one visits a park with Mobimats. The survey is designed to provide data to those making a trip to or around Florida’s beaches, to provide a visual to the visitor prior to arriving. It covers all accessibility features: parking, mobimats, signage, etc. One of the items that is showing in the survey is there is nothing on a website that shows when a mobimat is down for repair, or a storm, or beach maintenance, etc., and the anticipated return of the mobimat. Also discussed were trackchairs, which there doesn’t seem to be a lot of interest in, and items used by a band in their concerts so that those who have hearing impairment can still enjoy their concerts. Jody is doing research looking for a universal product that can be checked out at the beginning of a concert for those with hearing impairment, and returned at the end of the concert. Once something can be identified, then reaching out to places like Ruth Eckerd to see if they would purchase the products for use.
- Pinellas County Parks Accessibility Discussion – A walkway is being built at Seminole Park so it’s all accessible, and all of the new playgrounds (9) will have sidewalks as well.

## **COUNCIL OPEN DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jody announced the 5-year anniversary of the Persons with Disabilities Council. Anticipated topic discussion/guest speakers for March: Stimulation Kits (Autism), and June: Able Trust (close the employment gap for those with disabilities).

## **NEXT MEETING-** March 4, 2024

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.