D.C.C.P.D. Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 29th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 11:15 AM

441 4th Street NW, 11th Floor Conference Room, 1113

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

* Kamilah Martin-Proctor, Chair
* Dr. Denise Decker
* Charlotte Clymer
* Gerry Counihan
* Hope Fuller
* Jarvis Grindstaff
* Shakira Hemphill
* Terrance Hunter
* Travis Painter
* Jeremy Mann

\*Unable to attend and prior notice given by Edward James

**ODR Representative:**

* Julia Wolhandler

**Public Members in Attendance:**

* Lisa Proctor (HSC Healthcare System)
* Sarah Zakrewski (HSC Healthcare System)
* Jade (HSC Healthcare System)
* Iris Gomez
* Anjie Shelby (Belefied)
* Maurice Smith (PSC)
* Darlene Gripper (PWYWCA)
* Mercia Bowser-Bah (DC Collaborative)
* Oliver Ray (Linner Foundation)
* Alison Whyte (Director, DDC)
* Kimberly Walker (Long-term care Ombudsman)
* Donald Clarke (DDS)
* Cheryl (OPC)
* Jean Gross (OPC)

**Call to Order**

* The meeting was called to order by Chair, Kamilah Martin-Proctor at 10:05 AM

**Commissioner Roll- Call**

* To verify **Section 6. Quorum** - The attendance of one-third (1/3) of the voting members of the D.C.C.P.D.
  + Confirmed ten (10) commissioners in attendance

**Approval of September 2018 Meeting Minutes (Formal Vote)**

* Approved by Kamilah Martin-Proctor. Seconded by Charlotte Clymer

**Overview of Experimental Electricity Rate Credit by Director Maurice Smith, DC Public Service Commission**

* In 2017 technical conferences focused on how to determine the structure for the rate credit
* The Experimental Electricity Rate Credit has not yet begun
* There are discounted electricity rates already set up for low income households but this structure does not always work for those that make over the low-income threshold
* In DC there are 51,000 residential households that consist of individuals who are sixty-five (65) years old or older
* In DC there are is a high number of people with disabilities
* For individuals receiving the HOMSTEAD reduction and senior citizen - disability property tax reduction with an income of up to $128,000:
  + - Automatically will receive the **Experimental Electricity** rate credit and individuals do not need to sign up
    - This excludes renters and is for home-owners only, as of now
    - The credit is $7.50 a month
    - A line item for the rate credit will be shown on electricity bills
* Next technical conference will determine how those not receiving the above programs can also receive the reduced rate. PEPCO will work to identify those who are not part of the above programs.
  + - The upcoming technical conferences will look into how to expand the rate credit for renters
* The Public Service Commission has an outreach team in the community that provide information and answer questions for community members. Chrystal Randolph provides outreach (202) 626-5120.
* OPC is the advocacy agency and the Public Services Commission is the regulator

**Updates:**

1. **Open Captioning Bill** - Letter of support by Commission sent out on Monday. There is a Public Hearing on December 11th. Jarvis Grindstaff will provide testimony on behalf of the Commission.
   1. The Bill would require a certain number of films in each movie theatre in the District to show Open captions every week during popular times. This Bill benefits people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, with disabilities, and non-native English speakers.
   2. Hawaii and some other States have passed similar bills
   3. Commissioner Martinez has been speaking with the Council and Councilmember Jack Evans on passing this Bill
   4. Commissioners Charlotte and Kamilah will work with Erick Nordolf of the DC Deaf Moviegoers to reach out to businesses to show support at the Public Hearing
   5. Suggestion was made in creating something for individuals who are Blind
2. **DC For Hire Vehicles Accessibility Advisory Committee (DCFHV):**
   1. November update by Commissioner Hunter – Drivers learning advocacy for people with disabilities, including how to pick up passengers who are blind on the appropriate side of the road and place wheelchairs effectively
   2. Gerry and Marcia have reached out to Director at DCFHV with regards to this and need a collaborative effort in approaching this
   3. Trying to change shared rides to pooled rides up until the 15th and then after the 15th for $5
3. **The Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC):**
   1. Tiffany Smallwood has played a role as DDC member and DCCPD Commissioner
   2. Currently there are 2 vacancies open
   3. The DDC would like to collaborate more with DCCPD on advocacy
   4. Upcoming events: Next Chapter Book Clubs, designed to be inclusive regardless of reading levels – They have shadow readers. If interested, facilitators are needed
   5. Gerry spoke about newsletter from Best Buddies – a good resource
4. **Facebook Page:** Kamilah sent out draft overview to Commissioners for review and Julia will get permission from Mayor’s Communications team
5. **Mayor’s Disability and Diversity Expo** **– After Action Report**
   1. The first time the Expo had on-site interviews with 3 vendors
   2. Overview of session, “Working Dogs in the Workplace” with Commissioner Decker and ODR Attorney, Jessica Hunt
      1. Was successful and had good questions from audience members
      2. Will send to Julia a topic on employment and service animals and accommodations. Possibility to have recurrent break-out session on service animals
   3. After Action Call by Planning Committee will take place after the New Year
6. **Pre-Expo Resume Writing Workshop** was successfuland included Patrick Timony from the Center for Accessibility of the DC Public Libraries, presentation by DCHR, DOES, and DOL on resume building and how to stay employed while receiving Government benefits, and working on interview skills. This Workshop included the WOW Bus Workforce on wheels that allowed attendees to access the computers. Hope Fuller did a tremendous job in planning this.
7. **Yearly Report** – approval needed by Commissioners
8. **Commissioner Bios** – up on ODR’s webpage. Waiting for bio updates from Travis Painter and Dr. Silvia Martinez
9. **Bullying Campaign -** Gerry has not yet been able to contact the person from DDC, Ron Smith, with regards to creating a Bullying campaign. Julia will re-send introduction e-mail to both.
10. **Standing Committee and Tentative Dates.** A separate phone call will be set-up for all Commissioners to further discuss
11. **Training for Restaurant Association**. Dr. Decker and ODR did a pilot training for a local restaurant on disability rights laws as a result of her case against a restaurant that discriminated against her because of her service animal

**Public Comments:**

* Recently on WMATA, a man who had a service animal was harassed. Mercia Bowser-Bah proposes that the Commission work with police on disability sensitivity training.
* HSC Health care has joined this months meeting and wants to get more involved with the Commission
* Oliver L Roy from the Linner Foundation thanks the Commission for their meeting
* This is Kimberly Walker’s first Commission Meeting. She is an advocate for residents’ rights and wants to invite her team members to this meeting
* Donald Clarke from DDS works on technology and would like to work with the Commission on Assistive Technology for people with intellectual disabilities
* Jean Gross from OPC stated that the $5 credit for renters will be available on their electricity bill
* Mercia Bowser-Bah invites everyone to her Collaborative meeting which is every third Thursday of the month.

**11:21 a.m. Meeting Adjourned**