Commission on People with Disabilities
November 9th, 2016

Welcome and Approval of October 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes:
Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. A motion was made to approve the October, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and the October, 2016 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Snow Removal on Sidewalks, Parking Lots and Streets – Tommy Heyboer, Legislative Aide, Office of Councilmember Hans Riemer, Montgomery County Council
In 2001, former Councilmember Phil Andrews, introduced the Pedestrian Winter Safety Act that required residents to shovel their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow event. In 2013, after a large snow event, Councilmember Hans Riemer witnessed extremely unsafe pedestrian activities due to sidewalks that were plowed in with snow. In 2014, Councilmember Riemer introduced legislation that would require the County Executive to develop a sidewalk snow removal plan. Since then, the Department of Transportation (DOT), has created a sidewalk inventory plan. All sidewalks were inventoried and a GIS digital map was created. Sidewalks were also identified as to whose responsibility it was to shovel. The County is responsible for 320 miles of sidewalk. Last year, DOT mobilized 11 times and cleared 50 miles of sidewalks. High pedestrian areas and bus stops were given high priority. Approximately 1,100 bus stops were shoveled last year. This year DOT will be clearing 320 miles of sidewalk and will be identifying higher priority pedestrian areas, bus stops, and transit and school routes. Specialized equipment has been purchased and more contractors have been hired. This is the first year there will be a large deployment of resources and there will be a few learning curves.

Councilmember Riemer will be introducing Bill 46-16 legislation on Tuesday, November 15th that would provide for higher penalties for violations of the law requiring removal of snow and ice on commercial property. The bill would raise the fine from $50.00 to $500.00 for commercial properties.

Handout – Sidewalk Snow Fines: Residential and Commercial:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A%26D%20Docs/CPWD/RiemerSidewalkSnowFines.pdf

The floor was opened to questions.

A 'snow event' is a technical term for when DOT mobilizies their equipment. There are different levels of mobilization based on how much snow is anticipated. Most County employees are non-essential employees and are not required to work when a massive snow event occurs. DHCA inspectors are considered non-essential employees and are not available to give citations if the County government is closed. There has been discussion to have urban district workers, such as the Red Shirts in Silver Spring and the Bethesda Urban Partnership, report sidewalk snow violations. While DHCA is the only agency authorized to issue citations, other County agencies can file complaints.

Another issue that is being addressed is the dumping of snow in accessible parking spaces and access aisles.. The Pedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001 established that property owners that obstruct designed disability parking spaces with snow or ice can be fined up to $100 for the first offense and $150 for subsequent offenses. There may be an issue of lack of enforcement or the level of fine is not suficient enough to discourage the practice. Tommy will look into this issue.

The County has a robust public education campaign that starts at the beginning of the snow season. Last year the campaign was "Be A Good Neighbor" and postcards were sent to every resident. The County also included this campaign in their e-mail newsletters. Additional information is shared on social media and through the County emergency alert system. If there is a large snow event, the law allows for the County Executive to waive the 24-hour requirement. The waiver is based on the discretion of the County Executive and not by a set amount of snow.

Current law states that the owner of private property is responsible for the sidewalk adjacent to that property. There are certain routes in parts of the County that push large amounts of snow onto the sidewalk when plowed. It is not fair to force residents to clear large amounts of packed ice and snow. DOT has been asked to deploy resources to assist residents when these situations occur, but such a plan won't be available for the next few years.

The County's Wide Enough for Wheels campaign stated that the cleared pathway must be wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use (at least 36"). Cindy Buddington, Commissioner, asked if legislation states exactly how wide the pathway must be cleared. Tommy asked for recommendations from the Commission and will include the specifications in all educational materials. Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, will send Tommy public right-of-way requirements.

Christopher Moy, Ex-Officio Member, asked if there was a way to have bus stops added to the priority list. Nancy said to contact Stacy Coletta at the Department of Transportation at 240-777-5836. She is in charge of the bus stop program.

It was suggested that a definition section be added to the bill for any language that is not referenced in other parts of the code. Any other suggestions can be sent to Tommy.

Seth Morgan, Chair, addressed the issue of parking lot safety. Tommy reported that the County is working on a Vision Zero campaign, which is an international movement to put an end to fatal traffic crashes that relies on data-driven approaches to improve the engineering of roads, to conduct targeted education and enforcement, and to change laws to improve driver behavior and increase penalties for dangerous conduct on the roads. Councilmember Riemer has discussed requiring vehicles to back into spaces, which requires more concentration and awareness from the driver.

If the resident does not clear the sidewalk after receiving the first $50.00 fine, they will receive a $50.00 fine every subsequent day that the sidewalk remains unshoveled.

The County educates the public of this legislation through mailers and it is included in all communications leading up to winter. The more groups and civic associations that can share this information, the better.

Hilary Kaplan, Commissioner, asked about storm drain signage. Tommy asked that Hilary contact him directly about this issue. She also asked that a provision be included in the legislation for residents that cannot shovel snow due to medical reasons, such as persons with disabilities or the elderly, as it creates an additional burden for them. Tommy will share this viewpoint with Councilmember Riemer. The City of Rockville has a volunteer program to assist those in need.

Individuals should contact 311 first to report an issue. If you do not feel the issue is being resolved, please contact Councilmember Riemer's office so they can assist.

Chair and Vice Chair Report

Seth Morgan asked Commissioners who are sick to please consider staying home as some meeting attendees are at an increased risk of illness due to immune system compromise if they are exposed to people with infectious diseases.

November is National Family Caregiver Month.

Seth encouraged Commissioners to complete Respect the Space surveys. Completed forms should be sent to Betsy. If possible, please include photos of the parking spaces, which can be sent via e-mail or text.

Due to employee training at Hungerford Drive, the Steering Committee will be meeting at the Rockville Memorial Library through April 2017. The next Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee will meet next Monday, November 12th at 1401 Rockville Pike in Room 1002. Bernie Simons, Director, DDA, will give an update on the Developmental Disabilities Transformation.

The Commission has written a letter to Governor Hogan recommending expanding dental care coverage to adults up to age 26. The Mental Health Advisory Committee has asked to co-sign the letter. Kathy Mann Koepke, Commissioner, made a motion to send the letter as written. Larry Bram, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ex-Officio and Member Updates:
Nancy Greene, ADA Title II Compliance Manager, Department of General Services (DGS), reported that the EOB circle renovation is nearly completed. Accessibility improvements were made and the slope was improved upon, but could not be alleviated fully due to underground structural requirements that could not be changed. The Germantown BlackRock Center for the Arts interior has been renovated to be fully accessible and the exterior work, including path of travel, ramps in front of the building, parking, and access in the back of the building, is currently ongoing. Broome School is also undergoing exterior accessibility improvements including access and parking. It will also undergo restroom renovation. The Olney Swim Center has completed exterior accessibility improvements including parking and the nearby bus stop. Interior accessibility improvements are ongoing. DGS is in the design stage of improving the restrooms at the Executive Office Building on the lobby and terrace levels. Nancy reported that a mandatory online ADA training is being rolled out to all departments. All employees, including volunteers and contractors, are required to complete the two-hour training including a comprehension assessment.

Charlie Butler, Department of Recreation, reported that Recreation's 2016 – 2017 Winter Guide is now available online. The new Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center held their grand opening on October 22nd. Ross Boddy Neighborhood Recreation Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly renovated center on October 29th.

Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation, reported that on October 2nd a new Ride On route (#301) was piloted between Tobytown and the Rockville Metro Station. Ride On is currently looking for users of the system to volunteer and serve on their Transit Advisory Group. Members serve a two-year term.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), reported that Stacy Spann, HOC Executive Director, has been involved with the Casey Foundation Project and has asked every HOC Division to provide more accessible services to clients. There has been an increased number of clients with disabilities being terminated from the housing program. HOC is working more with service providers and landlords who can alert HOC of issues. Susan presented the Commission's adult dental care letter to the Mental Health Advisory Committee, which voted to co-sign the letter. The Committee is also looking into tele-psychiatry. There is a severe shortgage of psychiatrists in Montgomery County that work with low-income individuals. Susan reported that the mental health court has been fully funded and is in the process of hiring positions for the program.

Rita Gale, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), reported that the Aspen Hill Library is closed as of today for a refresh project and will be closed for five months. The Wheaton Interim Library is also temporarily closed and will reopen on November 17th. A collection of approximately 16,000 items including new books, DVD's, and audiobooks will be available and ready to use. The Interim location will be open until the new Wheaton Library Community Recreation Center opens in a few years. MCPL has hired an Assistant Facilities and ADA Program Manager to assist Rita Gale. Elizabeth Lang was previously the ADA Coordinator for the DC Public Library. Ms. Lang will work on ADA issues for the libraries including programming, services and equipment.

Christopher Moy, Montgomery College, has not received any updates on the College providing ESOL classes for foreign-born residents who are Deaf.

Simone Geness, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Transition Services, reported that the Next Steps Parent Workshops is having a workshop in financial planning tonight. On November 30th, there will be a workshop on post-secondary options featuring a panel with individuals from higher education and a panel on careers with local employers. MCPS is working on career technology to increase enrollment and ensure students that are leaving the school system are college and career ready. Governor Hogan has moved the first day of the school year to the day after Labor Day. He has made a waiver amendment for the 2017 – 2018 school year for students whose birthdays fall between August 29th and Labor Day to be eligible to remain enrolled for another year. Otherwise, they would not be able to take advantage of an extra year.

Larry Bram, Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council, reported that the CARE Act went into effect October 1st. The Care Act allows a patient to designate a lay caregiver, requires the hospital to notify the caregiver before the patient is discharged, and lastly prepares the caregiver for aftercare of the patient. All hospitals must comply with this new law.

Announcements:
Please view the updated Transportation Network Directory: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tnd. Alternative formats and hard copies can be requested via Carly. WMATA will be linking to Directory on their website.

Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, MD 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 21st, 2016 –CANCELLED

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I
Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager

Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities Attendance Report
December, 2015 – November, 2016

VOTING MEMBERS ☒ Volunteer Form on File with Risk Management P = Present / A = Absence / W = Waived Absences by County Executive P* = Ex-Officio Member Alternate Attended / R = Waiver Requested			DEC	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	SEPT	OCTOBER	NOV	ABSENCES
1. Bleggi, Scott ☒	Agency Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
2. Bram, Larry ☐	Agency Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2016	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	**1**
3. Bruen, Michael ☐	Parent Rep.	1st term expires 9/2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	A	**1**
4. Buddington, Cindy ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2016	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**1**
5. DuGoff, Benjamin ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
6. Gallalee, Patricia ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
7. Glickman, Russell ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
8. Hartung, Susan ☒	Parent Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2016	A	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	**4**
9. Hunger, Scott ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2016	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
10. Hurtado, Luis ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
11. Kaplan, Hilary ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**0**
12. Kienzle, Richard ☒	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2016	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	**1**
13. Liniak, Tom ☒	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2018	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
14. Mann Koepke, Kathy ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2016	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**1**
15. Markwood, Tim ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2017	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	**1**
16. Merrick, Marie (Lu) ☒	Agency Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2016	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	**2**
17. Morgan, Seth ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	3rd term expires 9/2018	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**0**
18. Morgret, Karen ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2017	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	**2**
19. Peyer, Anne ☐	Agency Rep.	1st term expires 9/2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	**2**
20. Povitsky, Marcie ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	3rd term expires 9/2016	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	A	**3**
21. Prather, Carl ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2017	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**0**
22. Rohrer, Marcia ☒	Agency Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2018	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	**2**
23. Shapiro, Avner	Parent Rep.	Partial term expires 9/2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	P	**0**
24. Williams, James ☐	Person w/ Disability Rep.	1st term expires 9/2017	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	**3**
25. VACANCY ☒	Person w/ Disability Rep.	2nd term expires 9/2017											

Attendance Policy: A Voting Member may miss up to 3 meetings within a one year rolling period. Voting Members who miss more than 3 meetings in that period or who miss 3 consecutive meetings will be automatically removed. Waivers may be requested for absences caused by extenuating circumstances.

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members											
1. Butler, Charles – Department of Recreation	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P*	P	P	**1**
2. Dark, Okianer Christian - Montgomery County Commission on Human Rights	X	X	X	X	X	P	A	A	A	A	**4**
3. Gale, Rita – Department of Public Libraries – Special Needs Library	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	**1**
4. Geness, Simone – Montgomery County Public Schools	P*	A	P*	P*	A	A	A	P	A	P	**5**
5. Greene, Nancy – DGS – ADA Compliance Manager / Alternates – Anil Saini	P	P	P	P	A	P	P*	A	P*	P	**2**
6. Khan, Faisal – Department of Transportation	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	**0**
7. Moy, Christopher – ADA Compliance Officer, Montgomery College	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	P	**6**
8. Smith, Susan – HOC – Coordinator of Services for Residents with Disabilities ☒	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	**1**
9. Washington, Angela L. – EEO Manager - Office of Human Resources	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	**10**
10. VACANT – Health and Human Services											
11. VACANT – Health and Human Services - Children and Youth, School Health											