

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026**

7:00 P.M., Lee Center
1108 Jefferson Street, Gold Room 1

Members Present

Megan Prince
Alex Sprague
Robbi Woodson
Rachel Dixon
Shannon Loelius
Sarah Radt
Chasen Thoennes
Michael Kamin
Caitlin Scuderi
Miriam Mullen

City Employee Present

Delante Wade

Members Excused

Alex Radt
Donna Spencer
Brendan Conn
Merle Cuthrell
Howard Weiss

Call to Order by Vice Chair Sprague

Vice Chair Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Introduction of New ACPD Commissioners

Miriam Mullen and Michael Kamin were introduced as the newest members of the ACPD. Current ACPD member introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Sprague, seconded by Commissioner Loelius, the Agenda was approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Approval of Minutes of the February Meeting

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Sprague, seconded by Commissioner Loelius, the February meeting minutes were approved, as amended. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Chair's Report

Vice Chair Sprague stated that as the weather begins to get warmer, conversations about cooling stations should begin soon.

Vice Chair Sprague is working with the City Council on the Proclamation for Autism Acceptance Month. The Proclamation will be heard on April 14, 2026.

Guest Speaker

No guest speaker.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Chair Prince asked members to spread the word about the Gerry Bertier Scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 30, 2026.

Applications will be reviewed by the ACPD in May. Commissioner Woodson stated that she will forward the scholarship information to the social worker and behavioral specialist within her professional organization.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Woodson, seconded by Chair Prince, a subcommittee was created to review the scholarship and awards applications for this year's ACPD Awards ceremony. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Legislative Committee

Commissioner Woodson commented on the "Readaptiveness for Affordable Housing" proposal related to non-profits that's coming out of Richmond. This proposal is being watched by the Arlington Chamber, not sure if Alexandria's Chamber is watching. Twenty-three civic association throughout VA have sent letters to Richmond not to let the proposal lie within the county.

Housing Committee & Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee

Commissioner Dixon provided an update on the Housing 2024 Plan. Notified members that the Office of Housing is soliciting comments for the Housing 2040 draft plan. Also soliciting information/comments from the public. The comment period runs through March 22nd.

Information from the Office of Housing's last Open House can be found at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/HousingPlan>.

Accessibility-Friendly Businesses Committee

Vice Chair Sprague stated that it is important to point out that hardly any businesses in Alexandria are accessibility friendly and many have unfriendly sensory alarm systems.

Board of Architectural Review Committee

Commissioner S. Radt is reaching out to contacts in Arlington to look at other building code-related accessibility issues. Will follow up with the Commission.

Human Rights Committee

Chair Prince stated that the HRC held its annual Black History Month Meeting at the Black History Month Museum. Chief McGuire was present and discussed ICE's involvement in the City.

Alexandria Commission on Aging: No report.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce: No report.

Action Item

Members discussed and revised the draft letter to Mayor Gaskins and the City Council addressing the recent snowstorm and the City's snow response system. The letter highlighted the impact that was felt by residents with disabilities, post snowstorm (lack of shoveled sidewalks, blocked curb ramps, snowplow mounds at intersections, etc.) and provides ACPD recommendations for future storms.

Delante Wade notified the Commission that if a member(s) wanted to add information to the ACPD website, they should provide him with the information, and the information will be uploaded to the website. Delante Wade also notified the Commission that his office is working on additional updates to the ACPD website, as discussed.

Member Reports

Chair Prince: Chair Prince welcomed all the new Commissioners and thanked them for joining the ACPD.

Vice Chair Sprague: Vice Chair Sprague recently met with Kirk McPike to address the House Bill that would have decriminalized homelessness if the bill was passed.

Commissioner Kamin: Commissioner Kamin spoke about an individual with a disability who was shot by a police officer in the County. As a result, Commissioner Kamin suggested that the Commission reach out to the Alexandria

Police Department (APD) and talk about how the APD deals with individuals with disabilities and what can be done in the future to ensure that individuals with disabilities aren't discriminated against during their interactions with police officers.

Commissioner Thoennes: Commissioner Thoennes notified the Commission that on the City's Events & Public Meeting page the Alexandria Persons with Disabilities Commission isn't spelled out, it just says ACPD. Commissioner Thoennes is requesting to have it spelled out so individuals viewing the page know what Commission they are receiving information about.

Commissioner Loelius: No report.

Commissioner Scuderi: Commissioner Scuderi stated that initially she had trouble finding the ACPD website. Would like the website to be more navigable.

Commissioner Dixon: Commissioner Dixon raised concerns regarding the Braddock Road Corridor Improvements Project. The focus of the project is to create bike lanes in the Braddock Road Corridor. Commissioner Dixon stated that this process is negatively affecting individuals with disabilities who live in this community.

Commissioner Woodson: No report.

Commissioner Mullen: Commissioner Mullen stated that a lot of police officers aren't trained to deal with individuals with TBI and PTSD. The lack of aforementioned training is becoming a systematic problem.

Commissioner S. Radt: Commissioner Radt notified members that it is budget season and asked if the Commission wants to provide any input on specific issues that are relevant to the Commission.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Sprague motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Loelius. All Commissioners present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026, and it will be held at 7:00 p.m., Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street, Gold Room 1.