

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026**

7:00 P.M., Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Rachel Dixon
Megan Prince
Donna Spencer
Sarah Radt
Alex Sprague
Brendan Conn
Maryam Mullen
Chasen Thoennes
Robbi Woodson
Merle Cuthrell
Michael Kamin
Caitlin Scuderi
Jonathan McCall

Members Excused

Howard Weiss
Shannon Loelius

City Employee Present

Delante Wade

Call to Order by Chair Prince

Chair Prince called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the May Meeting

Upon a motion by Chair Prince, seconded by Commissioner Radt, the May meeting minutes were approved, as amended. All Commissioners present voted aye.

Introduction of New Commissioner

Johnathan McCall was introduced as the newest member of the ACPD. Commissioner McCall stated that he is a 24-year Air Force and Space Force veteran. Commissioner McCall has lived in Alexandria for the last 7 years and is excited to contribute to the ACPD.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Chair's Report

ACPD's proposed 2027 Legislative Package was discussed. This year the ACPD Legislative Package will focus on disability rights, healthcare, student safety, ADA housing requirements, and constructive amendments to language in the Virginia Code. 2027 Legislative Proposals are due by Friday, September 18, 2026. The ACPD will vote on its proposals at the next ACPD meeting to be held on September 9, 2026.

Chair Prince opened the floor to call for nominations for the soon to be vacant Chairperson position for ACPD, as she is resigning from the ACPD in September. No commissioners other than Vice Chair Sprague announced their candidacy for the position of Chairperson. Upon a motion by Commissioner Woodson, seconded by Commissioner Radt, Vice Chair Sprague assumed the position of ad hoc Chairperson. Potential election for Chairperson, election for Vice Chairperson and appointment of Executive Committee member will be held at the next ACPD meeting to be held on September 9, 2026. Any commissioner interested in becoming the Executive Committee member should send an email to the Chairperson and Delante Wade for consideration. A description of the duties of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Executive Committee member (appointed) was discussed.

Guest Speaker

No guest speaker.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Chair Sprague addressed the section of the ACPD proposed Legislative Package which addresses “phrases” regarding certain disabilities. Chair Sprague suggest removing terms such as “the functioning labels and mild/severe autism” because they believe these terms can be very triggering and sensory overloading, instead focus on using the term “support needs.” Chair Sprague also addressed the implementation of sensory friendly fire alarms.

Housing Committee & Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Dixon stated that on August 20, 2026, the Housing Committee will be hosting a retreat at Los Tios Grill, located at 2615 Mount Vernon Avenue.

The Office of Housing sent out its updated list of affordable housing.

Board of Architectural Review Committee: Commissioner Radt provided a lot of input to the BAR Design Guidelines Committee with some of the language that was discussed amongst the ACPD over the past months. The BAR recently held its first Design Guidelines Committee meeting on July 13, 2026, both Commissioner Radt and Commissioner Cuthrell were in

attendance. It was noted that the information provided by the ACPD was addressed at the meeting. On August 19, 2026, the BAR will be hosting a Design Guidelines public meeting.

Accessibility Friendly Businesses Committee: Commissioner Radt met with Claire Mouledoux (Visit Alexandria) and discussed ways that Visit Alexandria and the ACPD can work together to improve accessibility.

Human Rights Committee: Did not meet in July. Commissioner Kamin will now serve as the ACPD liaison to the HRC

Action Item

2027 ACPD Legislative Proposals Discussion: Chair Sprague is trying to bring back HJ509 from the 2023 legislative session. HJ509 provides that each child attending public school has a right to access a school-based mental health professional licensed by the Commonwealth as a licensed clinical social worker or licensed professional counselor, including the right to choose a mental health professional who will not utilize applied behavioral analysis. Chair Sprague is also interested in legislature that would remove the DMV's requirement for submission of paperwork for individuals who would like to have autism on their driver's license.

Commissioner Radt suggested that multiple organizations from the blind community will be supporting ballot measures regarding the electronic return of absentee ballots, and accessible autonomous vehicles.

Both IEP and 504 were added to the Student Safety proposal section.

Commissioner Prince suggested adding a new proposal that "supports any legislation towards making public transportation stops and hubs more accessible through seating, benches, curb cuts, flat sidewalks and overhangs for sun and rain protection."

Member Reports

Chair Sprague: Recently attended the Alexandria 250th Birthday Celebration and spoke with Assistant Chief North about individuals with disabilities and the justice system. The event was good but there were some ADA inconveniences at the park.

Noticing more sidewalk construction going on which can make walking for individuals with disabilities more challenging.

Commissioner Kamin: Currently reviewing the Metropolitan Police Department (DC) general order that deals with their procedures for dealing with individuals with disabilities. Would like to contact the Alexandria Sheriff's Department and the Alexandria Police Department, receive a copy of their general order and possibly have a conversation regarding their policies, practices and procedures.

Adjournment

Commissioner Prince motioned to adjourn, seconded by Chair Sprague. All Commissioners present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The next ACPD meeting will be held on September 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Nannie J. Lee Center located at 1108 Jefferson Street.