

Atlantic County
Disability Advisory Board
Minutes: April 9, 2019

Attendance: Joe Brown, John LaSala , Mark Petrella, Joanne Gahr, CheeKa Wu, Bob Ross, Trinna Rodgers, Ryan Penn

Excused: Linda Klersey, Doortje Schipper

Absent: Carol Ditmire

Ex-Officio: Cristine Chickadel

Public: Joe Ingemi, Donald Campbell & assistant

I. Call to Order: at 12:32pm by Chairman Brown.

II. Approval of Minutes: The March minutes were approved without revision.

III.

Committee Reports:

A. Legislation:

1. Trinna reported on Senate Bill 117, getting a lot of publicity: The Disability Integration Act of 2019, proposed to strengthen the ADA. See 46 page report here: https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?u=9003a758d31c89ea09e43ebb1&id=0d937e1432&fbclid=IwAR1RcwOmaXRDX2v2v-EKaRf0AlZBTXseUzijX_QRwhfBqmh3GlcQZdMjrc0
2. John reported on Senate Bill 3547: Requiring Access Link to operate during state of emergencies. <https://legiscan.com/NJ/bill/S3547/2018>

B. Access:

1. Mark reported on Sports Book at Tropicana with only bar hi-tops, no wheelchair access. Alternate accessible seating now avail in main, VIP and private lounges.
2. Mark also reported on the Ventnor Fishing Pier remodel. The first phase will be fully accessible complete with concession stand. Future plans will include a shade structure.

IV. Old Business:

1. Minutes and agendas now being posted on our county website: <https://www.atlantic-county.org/disability/advisory-board.asp>

V. New Business:

1. Sign in sheet went around for the Beach Access Checks Initiative. Members signed up for specific municipalities, to gather beach access data and images. Cristine handed out packets including checklists for guidance on reporting.
2. Bob asked for assistance/resources regarding a service animal for a student with Spina Bifida seeking info on obtaining her own service dog.
3. Board members discussed the program as presented in Public Comment from Joe Ingemi. Collectively found conflict of interest to his intention with our mission. Trinna agreed to investigate if other counties have a similar program. The board concluded that at this time it would not be a good fit to proceed with endorsement for reasons including; lack of time, resources, and the scope of our capacity.

VI. Good and Welfare:

- Save the Date: Ability Fair!! Stockton July 24th 10am.

VII. Public Comment:

Joe Ingemi, the chair of the Workforce Development Board's Disabilities Committee, presented his Inclusive Communities Program concept. Seeking DAB endorsement before presenting to Freeholders for buy in.

Donald Campbell reported his agency-Atlantic Center for Independent Living can assist with ADA types of training as his staff are qualified for such.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm.

Next meeting date May 14th 2019, Galloway Library meeting room.