

MINUTES
ADVISORY BOARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Members Present: John Neff
Janine Young
Michelle Bitter-Oakley (arrived at 1:05 p.m.)
Michelle Jones (via CMT)
Ellyn Drotzer (via CMT)
Roslyn Greenberg (via CMT)
Mona Malbranche (via CMT)
Mary Hudson (via CMT)
Tracy Stafford (via CMT)

Members Absent: Elizabeth Espinoza
Linda Fishkin
David Feldman

Also Present: Adam Katzman, Assistant County Attorney (arrived at 12:54 p.m.)
Carol L. Powell-Phillips, Professional Standards/Human Rights Section
Karen Pannell, Real Time Reporter

A meeting of the Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities (ABID) was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 12:51 p.m., in Room 302 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Following the Roll Call by Ms. Powell-Phillips, a quorum was established at 1:05 p.m. In the absence of the committee Chair, John Neff called the meeting to order.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Neff made a motion to adopt the agenda once a quorum was met. Ms. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES (June 13, 2023)

Ms. Powell-Phillips read the minutes of June 13, 2023, aloud. Mr. Neff made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2023. Ms. Drotzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSS 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Powell-Phillips stated the Annual Report and Recommendations have gone to the Broward County Administration. She explained that once it is reviewed and approved, it will then go to the Broward County Commissioners.

Ms. Powell-Phillips explained that she is working on an ABID history study from 2004 to present. She announced that an ADA Compliance Officer has been hired and will be reviewing the history of this Board. Ms. Powell-Phillips noted that the Annual Report and Recommendations will be posted online.

5. DISCUSS TENTATIVE 2024 ABID SCHEDULE

Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that the 2024 tentative ABID schedule had been sent to members. She noted that the December 2023 meeting is scheduled as planned. Ms. Powell-Phillips reminded the ABID members that the meeting time was changed to 12:30 p.m. in 2023. She indicated that these meetings may be attended virtually, but that a quorum must still be met.

Mr. Neff made a motion to accept the 2024 ABID schedule as presented. Ms. Drotzer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. BOARD ELECTIONS

Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that currently there is no Chair, Vice-Chair, or Second Vice-Chair. Ms. Powell-Phillips read the ABID by-laws aloud. Attorney Katzman explained that the by-laws could be amended at the next meeting and discussed the process to meet compliance and elect officers. He stated that until the process is complete, the most senior member of the Board could proceed as Chair.

Ms. Drotzer made a motion to elect Mr. Neff as the interim Chair. Ms. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Katzman answered questions from the Board regarding the number of appointees each commissioner has and appointment requirements. Mr. Neff

stated that he would attend the December meeting but may have to resign at a later date.

As acting Chair, Mr. Neff requested volunteers for the Nomination Committee. Ms. Malbranche, Mr. Stafford, and Ms. Young volunteered. Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that once she meets with the Compliance Officer, the Nomination Committee will meet.

Mr. Neff spoke on past challenges of this Board. He defined the role, which is to make recommendations to the Broward County Commissioners.

Mr. Neff asked Ms. Powell-Phillips to contact all ABID members on behalf of the Nomination Committee, to see who has interest in becoming the Chair of this Board.

Danay Cravey, ADA Compliance Officer, entered the meeting and was introduced to the ABID members.

Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that the next meeting is scheduled on December 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. She noted that it is an Annual Board Workshop to address the goals and visions for 2024. (Ms. Drotzer left at 1:59 p.m.)

After much discussion, Ms. Greenberg made a motion to move the December meeting date to December 14, 2023. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Ms. Greenberg left at 2:01 p.m. resulting in the loss of a quorum.)

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

(None.)

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Powell-Phillips spoke on options for holding the following committee meetings before December 2023.

- a. **Emergency Management:** This meeting was not held in April due to the resignation of the committee Chair.
- b. **Transportation:** Ms. Powell-Phillips noted that the Transportation Committee met on May 18, 2023.
- c. **Education and Awareness:** No date was set for this committee meeting.

- d. **Planning:** Ms. Powell-Phillips stated that this committee meeting had taken place, but that no notes had been submitted. Mr. Neff explained that this committee addressed the list of deficiencies in past inspections. He noted that the list that had been provided was outdated and resolved.
- e. **Legislation:** No date was set for this committee meeting.
- f. **Employment:** No date was set for this committee meeting.

Ms. Powell-Phillips spoke on the challenge of this Board is that there have been several new members that may not understand each committee's role. She noted that with the help of the new ADA Compliance Officer, Danay Carvey, the committees and their responsibilities will be presented to the ABID members.

Mr. Neff expressed surprise at the lack of communication regarding an ADA event that was held. ABID would like to be notified of pertinent events. (Michelle Bitter-Oakley arrived at 1:05 p.m.)

9. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

(None.)

10. NON-AGENDA/PUBLIC COMMENT/REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Jones spoke to the ABID members regarding mental health and hidden disabilities such as learning and emotional disabilities. She would like to bring awareness of hidden disabilities through this Board and is working to discuss these issues with the Florida State Senate. Mr. Neff noted that Ms. Jones could work together with the Education and Awareness Committee to bring further awareness to this topic.

Ms. Bitter-Oakley showed support for broadening the scope of the Board by including mental and learning disabilities. Ms. Young agreed that the Education and Awareness Committee may be a good place to address hidden abilities. Ms. Powell-Phillips reminded the Board that Ms. Jones is the Chair of the Education and Awareness Committee. Ms. Bitter-Oakley thanked Ms. Jones for introducing and advocating for the hidden disabilities.

Ms. Powell-Phillips spoke on the board priorities, subcommittees, and goals.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.