

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
January 4, 2012

Commission Members:

Melissa Booth	A	Francis McGee	A
Clara Borrell	A	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Debra Burmeister	A	Karin Swor	P
Roberta Cich	P	Glenn Tridgell	P
Erica Erickson	P	Randall Vogt	P
Lindsey Harkreader	P		
Sara Junge	P	City Staff:	
Durbin Keeney	A	Bob Grytdahl	
Lars Kuehnow	P		

Guests:

Kim Stickland – Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Dwight Morrison – Wheels on Trails

1. Approval of minutes
December minutes were accepted as written

Agenda: Kim Stickler was added to the agenda
Lars moved/Lindsay seconded to approve agenda as amended. Approved

2. By Laws:
By Law changes were reviewed.
Roberta Cich moved to accept By-Laws changes as published in the December minutes. Lars Kuehnow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Grytdahl was asked if the City can put the By-laws on the Commission on Disabilities on the Website. He will check.

3. Elections
There were no additional nominations for Officers. Lars Kuehnow moved to keep the current officers for the next year. Bev Strongitharm seconded. All were in favor.

4. Speakers/Presentation
Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)
Kim Strickland from VRS explained the program. VRS assists individuals with significant disabilities in training and locating employment. They are located in the WorkForce Center. Orientations are on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and

Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. VRS is a part of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

5. Signage requests

A. James Zimmer - 1825 W. 1st Street - Fran McGee was not present to give a report. Erica will contact James.

B. Julie Jeatran - 2121 E. 3rd Street, #1 – Sara Junge reported that there is accessible off street parking both in the rear off the alley and the driveway. *Sara Junge moved to agree with the City's assessment and deny the parking spot. Bev Strongitharm seconded. All were in favor.*

C. Daniel Kuismi - 116 W. 5th Street -- Erica Erickson was not able to connect with Daniel. She will try again this month.

6. Action reports

A. Parks and Rec –

1. Erica reported that Randy Vogt and Dwight Morrison (Wheels on Trails) were at the meeting to talk about accessibility of trails. They will be meeting with the Trails Subcommittee. They would like to talk about some of the trails that have access issues.

2. Bob Grtydahl brought up the idea of connecting with Northern Bedrock Conservation Corps. Wheels on Trails would also be a good partner.
a. They will be working on improving trails. There is a lot of experience and expertise in this group
b. Will partner with many community organizations

B. Tourism – No new report.

C. Advocacy –

1. Parks & Rec. letter – Lindsay Harkreader presented the letter she has written to Parks and Rec regarding the lack of wheelchair access to the baby swings at Playfront Park. *Roberta Cich made a motion that Erica Erickson present the letter that Lindsey Harkreader wrote to the Parks and Rec Commission. Karen Swor seconded the motion. There was quite a bit of discussion about how to proceed and ADAAG guidelines. Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Addressing accessibility concerns within the city – Bob talked to the Commission about creating a process for addressing accessibility concerns within the city. Along with this would be a process for addressing these concerns with businesses. An Action Group was formed. Those who will work on this will be Bob Grytdahl, Lars Kuehnow, Erica Erickson, Glenn Tridgell, and Roberta Cich.

7. Correspondence

A. Bridget Riversmith sent a letter on behalf of the Arrowhead Alliance of Artists with Disabilities thanking the Commission for their support of the Disability Mural Project.

8. Public Comment

- A. Dwight Morrison commented that he (and Wheels on Trails) has some concerns regarding the proposed skywalk signage project currently underway and the presentation at last month's meeting. There is concern that not enough is being planned to show accessible routes and entrances.

9. Other Business - None

10. Announcements –

Please encourage any interested people in applying for Commissioner vacancies. This is the time of year applications are being reviewed and accepted by the Mayor for appointment.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Cich

RC:jm