

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2014

Melissa Booth	E	Amber Madoll	A
Michelle McDonald	P	Francis McGee	A
Roberta Cich	A	Beverly Strongitharm	E
Erica Erickson	P	Karin Swor	E
Amanda Crosby	P	Randall Vogt	A
Derek Uttley	A	Amy Hill	A
Gerald Salveson	P	Bob Grytdahl – Staff	P

1. Approval of March & April Minutes & Current Agenda

There was not a quorum so no approval took place.

2. Signage Requests

- a. 1135 87th Ave W. – Gerald Salveson accepted this assignment
- b. 637 N 59th Ave W. – Amanda Crosby accepted this assignment

3. Speaker – Jim Heilig, Duluth Transit Authority – Downtown Duluth Multimodal Transportation Terminal

Jim gave a detailed presentation and slide show about the new DTA Transportation terminal. Most of this presentation will be available on the DTA website by mid-May. Construction on the project will start in June, 2014 and it should be completed by December, 2015. The new station will accommodate the DTA, Jefferson Lines, and other providers. There will be parking for bikes, cars, and hook ups to charge electric cars. There will also be an ATM and a police substation. The center will connect to the Skywalk system and will be fully accessible. Pick up and drop off at the Holiday Station will only be available with people with disabilities. The general public will be required to board and disembark at the new Center. The Northwest Passage of the Skywalk will be closed June 22, 2014 until September 20, 2015. Jim Heilig will come back to a future Commission meeting to talk about Stride.

4. Maurices construction accessibility changes

Bob discussed the Maurices project. It will be a couple years before it will be completed. This means that area is not accessible and there is will be no Skywalk access to that area until the project is completed. If people experience problems, they should report them to Bob Grytdahl.

5. Action & Advocacy Reports

- a. Parks & Recreation – Erica Erickson provided a report on the April meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission. The April meeting was the annual meeting and many

of the projects that were completed over the past year were discussed, as was the budget and goals for next year. Sam Cooke was the featured speaker and provided positive commentary about Duluth's parks. The Parks Department has stated an ongoing commitment to make upgrades to the parks to help them become more accessible for all people.

- b. Homeless Bill of Rights – Bob Grytdahl spoke about the ongoing problem of homelessness in Duluth. There will be a summit at the Copper Top Church on May 28, 2014 regarding this issue. Political will is needed to get funding for projects to increase housing options. It is cheaper to coordinate services, whereas right now the provision of services is disjointed and inefficient. The community needs plans to transition people coming from institutions and foster care back into community living. The standard is that people should not have to pay more than 30% of their income towards housing. The cost of available housing in Duluth often exceeds this limit for people.

6. St. Louis County Health & Human Services Conference
The Conference is October 9-10, 2014. Gerald and Randy will be attending and taking shifts representing the Commission. We will not be doing any specific presentation, but Commission members are encouraged to sign up to take shifts to be available to answer questions and interact with the public at the booth we are able to share with the Human Rights Commission.

7. Public Comment
None

8. Other Business
Bob mentioned that Dale Sellner will speak at a future Commission meeting about the Accessibility Assessment that was recently completed throughout City facilities.

9. Announcements
None

The next Commission on Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, room 303.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica M. Erickson
Chair