

City of Duluth  
Commission on Disabilities  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Meeting start time: 3:07 p.m.

Melissa Booth	P	Francis McGee	P
Clara Borrell	P	Patti Nadeau	E
Debra Burmeister	E	Tony Rubin	P
Roberta Cich	A	Cindy Stratioti	E
Claire Jasper	A	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Sara Junge	P	Karin Swor	A
Durbin Keeney	P	Glenn Tridgell	P
Lars Kuehnnow	E	Randall Vogt	P
		Bob Grytdahl–Staff	P

1. Guest at today's meeting: Terry Groshong, architect for the city to give report on accessibility and city sites.
  - ! Evaluations on city properties were done many years ago following ADA.
  - ! They have not made it through all city buildings.
  - ! The recreations sites are in varying states of compliance with ADA.
  - ! The department has a budget of 100K annually for facility needs assessment from the general fund.
  - ! 75K has been allotted for Astroturf to make a field at Harrison accessible through the Miracle League. The goal is to have 2-3 of these fields city-wide.
  - ! Irving Community Club: Terry states he is advocating for a lift vs. a ramp secondary to skateboard traffic. Accessible parking signage is in process, there is some talk of changing the use of the building, plans for painting, a new roof, and windows are in process. They hope to add an accessible bathroom.
  - ! Accessible bathrooms city-wide: Instructions have been given to park maintenance that portable toilets should be accessible. Terry states he will reinforce that message.
  - ! Discussed signage and space painting for parking on 2<sup>nd</sup> St in front of City Hall. Terry to check with Steve Goman, but also stated that construction for that area is planned to start next month.
  
2. Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes/Announcements

Commissioners moved to add the additional items to the agenda:

  - A. Bob to give an update on the Human Rights Office
    - No corrections to June minutes. Stand as presented.

- Announcement: Durbin announced that veterans who own a home and are 70% or more disabled are now able to apply for a reduction in MN state real estate taxes.
3. Signage Request – Rene Howell, 823 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St.
    - Fran gave her report on the property and her discussion with the resident. Discussion followed.

*Durbin moved to approve the request. Glenn seconded. Motion carried. Bob will forward the paperwork/recommendation to the appropriate person.*

4. Public Comment: None
5. Update on Human Rights Office: Bob had a recent conversation with the CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) concerning the Human Rights Office in the City’s 2010 budget. The Human Rights Office will be closed because of critical budget short falls. Bob has been advised to embark on a fund raising effort to raise \$120,000 to keep the office open and shared several ideas.

The Itasca Project, a Twin Cities initiative, is an alliance drawn together by an interest in new and better ways to address regional issues that impact our future economic competitiveness and quality of life. **One priority will increase understanding of the region’s social-economic disparities** – Building on the launch of the Brookings Institution’s “Mind the Gap” study and a subsequent awareness campaign.

[http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2005/1116cities\\_liu.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/speeches/2005/1116cities_liu.aspx)

E-Race is a federal Equal Employment Opportunity program that has an employment of under represented focus to reduce historically high unemployment of groups including persons with disabilities. Both are available to learn more about online and Bob will keep the commission updated on his efforts and progress.

6. Correspondence
  - MN Disability Mentoring Day - October 13, 2009: Festivities starting the evening of October 12, 2009 at the Dept. Additional information available on a handout for those interested.
7. Parks and Recreation Report
  - Patti not present at this meeting. No report.
8. Work Group Action Reports  
 Health and Human Services Conference: Presentation set for October 5 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the DECC. Sara R. of the Workforce Center to join the presentation and we are partnering with her with a booth. Group shared their presentation outline and requests for help.

- " Presentation to include background information on the Commission, commissioner list, Bob's role with the commission, commission accomplishments and outcomes, common concerns from the community with common recommendations.
- " They lost the volunteer to help with creating new commission brochure.

**Action:**

- **Commissioners have been requested to write a bio of themselves, why they wanted to join the commission, etc. Please email your bio to Fran, Glenn or Clara by September 2.**
- **Workgroup is requesting help with creating a list of commission accomplishments and outcomes.**
- **Clara to contact area instructors at UMD/DBU for new prospective volunteer to work on the brochure.**
- Parking Ordinance: In process. City Attorney researching how other cities are interpreting the law, who/how to set criteria for enforcement, who would be the arbiter of the statute, handling applications, etc.

**Action: Bob to follow-up on accessible parking at the DECC and Bayfront with the construction taking away spaces and if the shuttle service is accessible.**

- Outreach: The opportunity exists to put information on the city website through our commission page with the city MIS department. We would need to create content to submit.
9. Work group action requests for consent agenda: None
- Commissioners discussed not having a meeting in August. Discussed having regular meeting time September 2, and early October meeting September 30 to allow for work prior to Human Services conference and Disability Day.

*Durbin moved to not meet in August and have additional September meeting. Melissa second. Motion approved.*

Focus of September agenda items:

- Human Services Conference
- MN Disability Event

*Motion to adjourn by Sara at 5:04 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge, Secretary