

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday September 2, 2009

Meeting start time: 3:04 p.m.

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

1. Guest at today's meeting: Sara Romagnoli from the Workforce Center.
2. Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes/Announcements
Roberta would like the July minutes to show that she was excused from the meeting.
Suspended approval of July minutes to the next meeting (no copies available).
3. No signage requests today.
4. Public Comment/Announcements:
MACV of Duluth advocated for and succeeded in expanding the number of accessible units at the Duluth Veteran's Place 5209 Ramsey St.
Claire stated she is without email and a computer at the present time and needs information sent to her in the mail or to an alternate email address.
Life After Stroke Conference will be taking place on campus at SMDC Saturday October 3, 2009.
Mayor's reception for Pride weekend is this Thursday 9/3/09 5 p.m. at the Depot.
5. Correspondence
MN State Council on Disability will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at MN Disability Day event October 12. The town hall meeting will be from 9-11 a.m., annual awards event 11:30-12:30 and council member meeting from 1-3 p.m.
Roberta passed out information on the events as well as nominating forms for the annual award.
Courage Center is currently accepting nominations for the annual Judd Jacobsen award.
SMDC accepting nomination for the annual Journey Award. Recognition event will take place at SMDC Medical Center 9/22/09. All are invited.

Idea: The Commission should set-up a suspense file to save future award nominations so that the deadlines for nominations can be met sooner.

6. Parks and Recreation Report

Patti shared that the 9-hole disc golf course is up and running at Morgan Park.

Sara J. shared information from Friends of the Park quarterly meeting. The city will soon be initiating developing a master plan for all parks in Duluth.

Wheels on Trails: Claire shared that WOT has received a grant to develop a mentoring program to involve people with disability in camping and hiking.

What percentage of pathways and playground equipment must be accessible in public parks?

- **Action: Roberta to send the ADA guidelines regarding this discussion to Patti and Karin.**

7. St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference:

- Fran present from the work group and shared that only 1-2 commissioner members have sent in their biography as requested from the July meeting.
- The presentation is scheduled October 5 from 3:00-4:30 at the DECC. The plan is to talk about the commission, who we are, what we do and offer a Q & A session. A booth is set-up and will be shared with the Workforce Center.
- Volunteers are needed to staff the booth both days.
- Due to work group members not being present to share information they have worked on, Roberta expressed concern about the presentation coming together.
- Claire shared that she passed on a written copy of commission accomplishments from Joyce Blodgett at the meeting in June. Who has it?
- Work group time was taken as a whole commission to brainstorm a presentation outline. Please see the last page of minutes for details.

Actions Needed:

Commissioners to email a written bio of themselves, who they are, what they do, and why they wanted to join the commission to Fran or Clara ASAP.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Please email Fran or Clara if interested. (Claire stated she will be available and Sara R. stated she will be present at the booth both days).

Additional Commissioners could also volunteer to present on a topic during the presentation. Possible topics include Skywalk, Parks, and the work on curb cuts. If interested, bring something prepared on the topic to our next meeting.

8. Other Business:

Sara Romagnoli: The Minnesota Council on Disability (MNCOD) is expanding their emergency preparedness brochure into a multi-page booklet. Copies have been ordered for the Commission. MNCOD is interested in presenting information on emergency preparedness and has developed 2 tracks: one for consumers and one for employers with a tool kit. Would the Commission be interested in hosting an event or collaborating with other agencies to present something for consumers and employers?

Focus of next meeting September 30:

Finalize Human Services Conference project and dry run of presentation.

How to follow-up on ideas brought up in meetings, creating future work groups, improving follow-thru, corresponding with concerned citizens, etc.

Durbin and Bev have noted they will be absent and should be marked as excused from this meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Patti at 4:34 p.m. Second by Bev.

Minutes submitted by Sara Junge, Secretary

Health and Human Services Presentation Proposal:

3:00 Welcome—Share mission statement. Highlight handout is available with commissioner bio information (Roberta).

3:05 Background on Commission—Date established by city ordinance. Why there was a need for it. City support and involvement (Tony).

3:10 Bob's role and Commission Goals (Bob).

3:20-3:45 Commission Accomplishments—What we did and what we learned. How is your experience and knowledge used? Topics volunteered:

Durbin to speak on veteran issues

Fran to speak on service animals and signage

Roberta to speak on person first language

Sara R. to speak on the Workforce Center

Claire to speak on homelessness and companion animals

3:45 Open up for question and answer. What are you seeing in the community? How can we partner and collaborate?