

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
October 6, 2010

Melissa Booth	P	Francis McGee	P
Clara Borrell	P	Patti Nadeau	P
Debra Burmeister	A	Tony Rubin	E
Roberta Cich	P	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Erika Erickson	A	Karin Swor	E
Lindsey Harkreader	P	Glenn Tridgell	E
Sara Junge	P	Randall Vogt	P
Durbin Keeney	E	Galen White	P
Lars Kuehnow	P	Bob Grytdahl—staff	P

1. September minutes and today's agenda --
September minutes and today's agenda approved as written.
2. Signage Requests –
No signage requests today.
3. Committee Reports –
 - a. Parks and Recreation report:
 1. Patti noted the discussion on the Irving Community Club from last month. Julia and Roberta were waiting to follow-up on checking out the site. Patti will re-invite Kristin Ridgewell to attend another commission meeting to speak on the subject.
 2. Not sure if the master plan is in its final stages yet, but Patti will try to secure a paper copy when it is available.
 3. Park Point camping – Environmental concerns have put plans on hold. Community feedback regarding this project has been high.
 4. Snow removal task force: Bob took a tour of the city's snow removal equipment for clearing sidewalks. There are approximately 300 miles of sidewalk in the city. The city currently clears about 100 of that. City ordinance states that the city is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk that it puts there (i.e., by snowplow) but that residents are responsible for the rest. Problem areas include the hillside and absentee landlords. Next meeting for the taskforce October 7 at 10:00 at Community Action Duluth.
4. Public Comment –
No public comment today.
5. Review of goals and action steps – Reviewed the progress report Clara and Galen created, and discussed. Progress has been made on many points, but the end of the year is soon.

New ideas discussed were:

- a. Creation of a work group to develop steps to approach the accessible tourism idea with the tourist board. Collaborate on the topic with PDC regarding their restaurant accessibility awards. Randy, Galen and Fran volunteered to head the group.
- b. Organize a private training for the Mayor's office, senior city staff and DEDA with Cindy Tarsish and Margot Imdetke. There was some opportunity for further training with these folks that grew out of the discussions involving the Norshor renovations. Galen volunteered to email the commission and synthesize responses for the advocacy speech.

Commissioners wanted to prioritize pursuing the city training and completing the advocacy speech by the end of the year.

6. Other Business

- a. Radisson update -- Galen White states she has followed-up with the hotel management via letter and phone call regarding the non-accessible renovations. This issue also highlights the bigger concern as to how project plans that do not appear to be in compliance with ADA minimums are being approved at the city level.
- b. NorShor update -- Events have been cancelled until accessible restrooms are made available on the first floor. Plans are in place to make that happen. This topic has received a lot of media coverage.
- c. ADA Employer training -- The event will take place October 18 from 1:00-3:00 in the Green Room at the library. Cindy Tarsish will speak along with Drew Digby. Flyers passed out and the city communications office has emailed the invite to their distribution list. The group met last week to brainstorm last minute marketing strategies.
- d. Mobility Expo at the DECC -- October 8th from 12:00-5:00 sponsored by Midwest Medical. This event is free to the public.
- e. Emergency Preparedness -- Margot Imdetke has expressed an interest in doing another follow-up training on emergency preparedness for the business community in Duluth. Will gauge interest on the topic at the employer training October 18. Roberta Cich will contact Sara Romagnoli to make sure this is part of the survey feedback for the session.

7. Announcements

Galen White announced a new peer support program with Access North for individuals with a disability. Training for the program will take place November 18th from 9:00-3:30. If you know of an individual with a disability who is interested in mentorship, please contact Galen. She will send out the flyer to commissioners.

Next commission meeting will take place November 3, 2010. Room 303 City Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Commission Secretary