

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2012

Melissa Booth	P	Amber Madoll	P
Clara Borrell	A	Francis McGee	A
Roberta Cich	P	Beverly Strongitharm	E
Erica Erickson	P	Karin Swor	E
Sister Mary Carla Flood	P	Randall Vogt	P
Derek Uttley	A	Sara Junge	P
Gerald Salveson	A	Ray Kleveter	P
Lars Kuehnow	A	Bob Grytdahl-Staff	P

Roll Call

1. Approval of November Minutes/Current Agenda

Minutes-Erica's name is misspelled under #4, paragraph D. *Sister Mary Carla Flood motioned to approve the correction. Amber Madoll seconded the motion. The correction was approved unanimously. The Agenda was approved as written.*

2. Elect New Officers

Nominees:

Erica Erickson for Chair

Amber Madoll for Vice Chair

Melissa Booth for Secretary

There were no additional nominations. Commissioners recommended a unanimous ballot on the slate and it was carried. Congratulations Erica, Amber and Melissa on your new positions!

3. Action and Advocacy Reports

a. Taxi Task Force - Will reconvene in early January.

b. Accessibility Code – Dwight from Wheels on Trails voiced concerns about the Duluth Citizens Federal Building, and stated that users of wheel chairs are unable to access the building because it has been remodeled with no ramp.

Bob Grytdahl contacted the state building official to get information on ADA compliance with remodeling of existing buildings. He stated that a permit is needed for remodeling if it increases the level of occupancy or extensive remodeling is taking place. It is unclear what qualifies as "extensive remodeling." According to the State Building Official, the building code is adopted by the state and enforced by local municipalities.

A press release was distributed to the Commission regarding compliance reviews of

Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2012

restaurants in Minneapolis. The information can be found at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/mn/adacompliancereview.html>. Bob asked for a written protocol for the enforcement of accessible issues in the city but hasn't gotten a response yet. It was suggested that the Commission could talk to the Mayor to see if they want to help the Commission develop a protocol so we can solve issues within the community before they become bigger issues.

Roberta Cich shared that it is the view of the citizens that city officials brush off concerns of people with disabilities, and suggested that city officials would benefit from education about disability issues. There was discussion surrounding the role of the municipal building official in enforcing the Minnesota Accessibility Code when no permits have been issued. Sara Junge recommended a work group.

Roberta Cich made a motion to form a work group to examine who enforces the State Accessibility Code, specifically when there's not a permit and the business is out of compliance. The motion was seconded by Erica Erickson and carried unanimously. The work group will be led by Bob and Erica.

- c. Parks and Recreation – There was no news to report.
4. Public Comment - None.
5. Other Business
 - A. Sister Mary Carla wondered about having a car pool system put on the city's website.
 - B. Amber suggested discussion of enforcement of skywalk accessibility as it applies to individual buildings included with the new workgroup when it forms.
 - C. Discussion about the sidewalk study that took place and the skywalk presentation during a commission meeting took place. The Greater Downtown Council wants to put a "universal" sign to indicate there is no wheelchair accessibility in the Sheraton portion of the skywalk. Bob will check with the MN State Council on Disability for appropriate signage.
 - D. Sara Junge reviewed Commissioner expiration terms. Discussion about recruiting new members followed regarding the areas of expertise or life experience that we need on the commission. The suggestion of having a building official as part of the Commission was brought up.
6. Announcements
 - A. Roberta announced that Bentleyville will have a Santa that signs on December 12th from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2012

B. Erica Erickson mentioned that the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities. More information can be read at:

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/us/despite-doles-wish-gop-rejects-disabilities-treaty.html?_r=0

http://maddowblog.msnbc.com/_news/2012/12/04/15675104-senate-gop-kills-disabilities-treaty?lite

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/05/harry-reid-fiscal-cliff-gop_n_2244928.html

C. Today is Sara's last official meeting with the Commission. Thank you for your time and dedication that you have put into commission. You will be missed!

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Booth
Secretary

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