

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
August 6, 2014

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| Melissa Booth | P | Beverly Richardson | P |
| Amy Burke | P | Ann Roscoe | P |
| Amanda Crosby | P | Gerald Salveson | P |
| Erica Erickson | P | Beverly Strongitharm | P |
| Amy Jo Hill | A | Derek Uttley | A |
| Shane Lueck | P | Randall Vogt | P |
| Amber Madoll | E | Beth Wilde | E |
| Michelle McDonald | E | Bob Grytdahl-Staff | P |
| Becky Perrett | P | | |

Also present: Zac Tuominen and Trevor from UDAC.

1. Roll Call and Introduction
2. Welcome of new member Amy Burke
3. Approval of July Minutes & Current Agenda
Ann motioned to approve the minutes, Beverly S. seconded the motion. The motion carried anonymously.
4. Current disability issues- Tari Rayala, the city architect gave a brief overview of the ADA report that was conducted to see where the city is today as compared to 30 years ago where accessibility is concerned. Tari reported that according to the ADA report that was received, the city has been making progress over the years.

The assessment gathered information on city facilities and city parks, mainly the facilities/parks that are used by the public (about 50 +). Tari is working to get the information online, the process is taking longer than expected because the information needs to be converted into a format that is user friendly. She is hoping to have the information available online within the next month.

If there are any questions, you may contact Tari at her city contact information which is on her business card she handed out.

Bob also reminded us that the ADA requires that the city has a plan to get property into compliance. This assessment and the report that was provided is that plan.

5. Transportation Discussion- Shane reported that the Minneapolis city council revoked a provision in an ordinance that required taxi companies to have a certain percentage of their taxis to be accessible. Instead the provision will be replaced with a tax when it's time to renew taxi cab licenses.

There are currently no state grant programs available to fund conversions of taxi cabs to accessible units. Shane suggests that people urge their legislators to sponsor a bill that would establish such a grant. Shane is willing to type up a petition. Amy B. agreed to help with that letter. Bob will review the letter and provide feedback. Bob also suggested including emergency response needs in the letter.

All licensed cabs for the city are on the city website. Shane and Amy Burke are willing to participate in a transportation committee.

6. Signage Requests-

- a. Patricia Olburt-Guist-1135 87th Ave. W. –Gerald does not recommend approval for this signage request because there is accessible parking available at this residence. Melissa seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Amanda raised the question about accessible signage being placed at an address that the commission did not support the need for the signage. Bob will look into the matter. Bob also mentioned the need for a protocol to re-assess the necessity of existing accessible signage and cited an example where a merchant complained about accessible parking taking up customer parking, and that spot isn't being used by anyone.

7. Action and Advocacy Reports

- a. Parks and Recreation- Amanda went to the Parks and Recreation meeting. The meeting involved approving the Hartley Mini-Master Plan. Dwight from Wheels on Trails was there and presented his review and recommendations, which included that the trails are not being maintained and the learning center could be more accessible. It was recommended that Dwight's suggestions be taken into consideration.

Randy pointed out that an accessible trail doesn't need to be paved, and there should be more accessible parking. The challenge is finding a balance of nature friendly vs. accessibility for everyone that is maintainable.

The commission's goal "Universal Accessibility" for everyone.

- b. Homeless Bill of Rights- last winter there were more people than usual without shelter outside. The recession caused a loss of jobs, lower paying jobs, and less benefits. This caused people who were already living on the boundaries to slip off and become homeless.

The Human Rights Commission has been working on an ordinance for a Homeless Bill of Rights. Part 29c of the Human Rights Ordinance says that people shall not be discriminated against based on their race, age, gender, sexual orientation, etc...The proposal is to include homelessness into that list, so that people who are without shelter shall not be discriminated against.

If anyone sees any valuable language that will suit the Human Rights Commission's efforts in writing that ordinance, please send it to Bob.

How accessible are homeless shelters? The disability linkage line, or 211 can be resources to finding accessible housing/shelters. Amanda will bring a list of accessible housing/how to get services, to the next meeting.

The Steve O'Neil Apartments are looking for families for their pre-application process.

- c. Olmstead Plan- Ann reports that the court is not satisfied with the progress the state is making in implementing the new rules. Ann will continue to provide updates as they arise.

8. Health and Human Services Conference- A sign-up sheet was passed around for commissioners to sign up for a volunteer slot to man the information booth for the human rights and disabilities commissions.

9. Public Comment- There was no public comment.

10. Other Business

- a. New members for the disabilities commission are sworn in during the month of March, but applications are accepted any time during the year.
- b. ADA update- there is a large event planned at the history center for the ADA celebration. There will be presentations that are streamed statewide.

11. Announcements

This Friday, August 8th, Kevin Lindsey, the MN Human Rights Commissioner, will be presenting at a round table discussion at City Hall, room 303, from 8:30am-10am. The topic will be employment for people with disabilities, women, and people of color. Submit any questions you have for the round table discussion to Bob prior to the presentation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Booth
Secretary