

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
April 6, 2011

CORRECTED COPY

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

1. March Minutes/April Agenda

Amendments to March minutes: Pattie Nadeau was excused from last meeting; under number 2, signage requests, paragraph A, change the word “caution” to “questioned.” *Minutes approved as amended.*

Amendments to April Agenda: add introductions; add parking task force; add long term disability parking permits. *Lars Kuehnow made a motion to accept the agenda changes. Patti Nadeau seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Agenda approved as amended.*

2. Introductions

Guests Jackie and Jasmine were in attendance, they are senior social worker students at the College of St. Scholastica. Also Bridget Riversmith from the Arrowhead Alliance of Artists with Disabilities was present.

3. Presentation: Bridget Riversmith from the Arrowhead Alliance of Artists with Disabilities

Bridget spoke about the Disability Mural Project. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness of barriers in the community. The group is looking to form collaborations in setting up tile making workshops in preparation for Disability Awareness Month. The group is looking for volunteers to help with the project. Bridget will email a PDF file of the volunteer form to Bob. More information about this project can be found at:

<http://disabilitymuralduluth.blogspot.com/>

4. Action Reports

A. Parks and Recreation: Patti Nadeau is no longer serving as an officer for this group, but did have information to share about the elevator at the Damiano Center. The elevator is now running, with access to four floors. Community Development Block Grant money funded a large portion of the elevator project. Sara Junge proposed writing a letter on behalf of the Commission to thank the Damiano Center for their efforts in making this project happen.

There are no new Irving updates at this time.

- B. Snow Removal Task Force: Drew Digby contacted the Commission and asked to meet with members to brainstorm ideas for the volunteer project. He is available the week of the 11th or 18th. Interested members should contact Galen to be a part of the group that will meet with Drew.

Sara and Galen re-wrote the letter asking for representation on the Snow Removal Task Force. Roberta feels that the re-written letter doesn't address the fact that representation for people with disabilities was eliminated from the task force. Sara suggested that individuals can write a letter on their own behalf to address those concerns. Roberta is opposed to sending the new letter as written.

Galen White made a motion to re-write the letter and bring it to the next meeting for review. Glen Tridgell seconded the motion.

Discussion that followed raised the question of the necessity of sending a letter when the Commission is meeting with Drew in person. *Galen White motioned to rescind her motion to re-write the letter. Glen Tridgell seconded the motion.*

During discussion, Roberta pointed out that the purpose of the original letter was to express that the Commission was included in beginning stages of the Snow Removal Task Force, but was excluded as the group progressed. *The vote was unanimous to rescind the motion to re-write the letter to the Snow Removal Task Force.*

Erica suggested that the Commission write a letter to the Snow Removal Task Force thanking them for letting us participate in the initial planning meetings, and ask to be included in future meetings. Galen pointed out that we are invited to all group meetings. Bob suggested that this type of conversation is better to have in person. *Tony Rubin made a motion that Sara Junge send the letter that was re-written. Galen White seconded the motion.*

During discussion of this motion, Clara asked if sending a letter is necessary, could we cover our concerns during the meeting with Drew? Lars suggested inviting Drew to a commission meeting. Roberta doesn't feel that sending the letter as it is currently written will get the message across that representation for people with disabilities was excluded from planning. *The motion to send the letter failed by a vote of 13-2.*

Roberta Cich, Lars Kuehnow, Galen White, and Sara Junge will meet with Drew Digby.

- C. Accessibility Task Force: This group hasn't had an opportunity to meet yet.
- D. DECC/Denfeld Auditorium: Galen talked with the contact person for Denfeld. They are not able to meet until the mid to end of May due to construction. She reported that there is not a lot of funding for the auditorium. Roberta reported that there are two laws that govern accessibility in schools. Both laws require that if the school is not accessible, they need to show that there is a financial hardship.

- E. Long-Term Disability Parking Permits: Bob reported that there is going to be a press release, and they are looking to invite people to the meeting with groups that would utilize the parking. The stickers on the meters are going to change. There will be a four hour limit on meters if there is a disability certificate. A person can also get half off parking at city ramps with a disability certificate, and if a person is employed for 20 or more hours per week, they can get a special permit for \$25/month to park at a meter if they have a disability certificate. Bob is asking commission members to email him with ideas for groups that he can invite to the press release. He is hoping to have the press release around the 14th.
5. Create 2011 goals/action steps
Commissioners should think about tangible goals for this next year and bring ideas to the next meeting.
6. Public Comment
Bridget from the Arrowhead Alliance of Artists with Disabilities asked if the Commission would be interested in endorsing or being listed as a partner with their group for the Disability Mural Project. *Lars Kuehn now made a motion to provide a letter of endorsement. Glen Tridgell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.* Bridget will send a sample letter of endorsement to the Commission. She also wanted to let the Commission know that her group meets the first Tuesdays of every month.
7. Voter ID – Diane Naus from the Disability Law Center came to raise awareness on the voter ID issue. Her agency provides education and outreach on how this issue affects people. She is looking to bring a forum to Duluth and wanted to see if the Commission is interested in attending. There are plans to hold the forum at Community Action Duluth on April 11th.
8. Other Business
Clara is interested in starting a task force to evaluate accessible parking issues. She is interested in meeting with a contact person at the Sacred Heart Music Center to discuss accessibility issues related to parking and offer to help them create a plan. Bridget from Arrowhead Alliance of Artists with Disabilities offered to collaborate, Roberta also can provide assistance. *Clara made a motion to start a task force to check into Sacred Heart Music Center to discuss accessibility issues. Glen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
9. Announcements
- A. The first Saturday in June is National Trail Day. An event will be held at Hartley Field from 10-2.
- B. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. On April 21st, Take Back the Night will take place. The pre-march rally begins at 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Center, followed by the march at 7:00 p.m.
- C. April is also National Autism Month.

D. Josh Blue is performing at the College of St. Scholastica on Thursday, April 7th. He is a comedian who is hearing impaired.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Booth
Secretary

MB:jm