

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2014

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

1. Roll Call & Introduction

2. Welcome

3. Approval of October Minutes & Current Agenda

October minutes: *motion to approve by Michelle, second by Beth.*

Changes to agenda: under Action and Advocacy reports- add items for Transportation Committee and Olmstead Plan; add strategic planning. *Motion to approve agenda with changes by Michelle, second by Bev R.*

4. Current Disability Issues

- a. Lakewalk Taskforce- November 17th Randy and Dwight from Wheels on Trails will be presenting proposed changes for the city's trails. Commissioners are invited to attend and encouraged to do so. It is from 9am to 11am at City Hall in room 303.
- b. Taxi wheelchair-moved to transportation committee
- c. Snow removal- Bob will be meeting with the Mayor's assistant tomorrow to discuss community support to keep sidewalks clear. City ordinance says the "abutter" is responsible for the sidewalk in front of their house. Amber suggested we write letters to appeal to the community about snow removal from sidewalks. She is willing to chair a task force for snow removal on sidewalks. Amber also suggests more action, such as nudging businesses, apartment building owners, and having a dialog with those people about snow removal. Beth, Amy, and Michelle will volunteer for the committee. Ann suggested that a letter sent to businesses should emphasize the purchasing power of a person with disabilities.

5. Signage Requests- Outstanding Reports

- a. 4712 W. 6th St: Gerald visited the site and motioned that we approve recommendation for signage at this address. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- b. 316 N. 76th Ave W.: Bob motioned that we do not approve recommendation for signage at this address. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- c. 603 N. 60th Ave W.: Amanda visited the site and motioned that we approve recommendation for signage at this address. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- d. 5920 Raleigh St.: Gerald visited the site and motioned that we do not approve recommendation for signage at this address. *The motion passed unanimously.*

6. Action & Advocacy Reports

- a. Parks & Recreation – Amanda Crosby provided a report on the October meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission. A subcommittee for families who have kids with disabilities was discussed. Families can find online which parks have accessibility.

A question was raised by the commission about having a fence around the playground areas of the parks. It was thought that maybe the grant program through Parks & Recreation could fund that? Amanda will email Kathy about that.

Also regarding parks, a community member mentioned a downloadable program called “code red,” which shows where kids are missing from around the nation. It was also discussed to check on the accessible swing that was previously promised by parks and rec. for Harrison Park.

- b. Transportation Committee – Amy suggested asking health insurance companies if they would pay for a taxi wheelchair, because it would be cheaper than paying for accessible specialized transportation such as Northern Access. It was also mentioned that a non-profit may be interested funding an accessible taxi that can serve riders who use wheel chairs. Another option is to find grants for current cab companies. Amber recommended bringing Jim Helig in the mix with our transportation committee discussions. Is it possible to have a service for people with disabilities who don’t qualify for stride?

It was suggested to call other cities, call taxi companies and ask how they do it, including calling Mankato.

- c. Olmstead Plan Update –There was nothing new to report for this meeting.

7. Strategic Planning – We would like to devote the next meeting to strategic planning, and discussion about transportation, snow removal, housing, accessibility.
8. Public Comment – A citizen came in to discuss curb cuts for wheel chairs, and difficulties with wheel chairs in the snow. She suggests a skywalk expansion or curbs that are more accessible and visible.
9. Other Business
Bob has been talking with the individual who has been unable to get social security because of her diagnosis (on the juvenile and not adult side). She needs an advocate.
10. Announcements – Bob sent us a link for the CDBG 5 year plan. <http://www.duluthmn.gov/community-development/2015-2019-consolidated-plan-draft/>
There is a public comment section that you can leave a comment at if you see something in the plan that you want to address.

Amber motioned to adjourn the meeting. Michelle seconded the motion.

The next Commission on Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 3:00pm at City Hall, room 303.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Booth
Secretary