

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2015

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|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Amber Madoll | P | Melissa Booth | A |
| Beverly Richardson | P | Amanda Crosby | P |
| Amy Burke | P | Ann Roscoe | P |
| Gerald Salveson | P | Beverly Strongitharm | A |
| Amy Hill | A | Derek Uttley | A |
| Randall Vogt | P | Bob Grytdahl – Staff | A |
| Michelle McDonald | P | | |

Roll Call & Introduction

1. Welcome

We welcomed Dwight Morrison from the Wheels on Trails Organization and the Citizens Federation as a guest to the commission meeting.

2. Approval of May Minutes & Current Agenda

June Minutes: *approved as written by Michelle and seconded by Ann*

Changes to agenda: *Agenda was approved as written by Michelle and seconded by Amy B*

3. Public Comment

See disability issues.

4. Current Disability Issues

a. Amy Burke is still having trouble finding affordable accessible housing in Duluth. Amy's struggles with finding an accessible home has many barriers including physical and economical barriers. Amber Madoll has connected with Terry at the Budgeteer and would look to propose looking at several different barriers to individuals with disabilities in a written series including but not limited to; housing, transportation, and accessibility indoors and outdoors to raise community awareness. Gerry Salveson was nominated and has offered to follow up with Terry at the Budgeteer. Gerry encourages all commission members to share any personal stories he can present. Amber will be writing a letter to Mayor Ness regarding the housing barrier in Duluth. There was discussion of writing to Sherman and Associates and other large renters in Duluth and

possibly inviting them for further discussion on qualifications to rent with in their agencies.

b. Ann Roscoe wrote a draft letter to Representative Nolan discussing the housing concerns in Duluth. Amanda Crosby shared information from NCIL that Ann will look up on line regarding housing. Some members of the commission were not aware of the Affordable Housing Commission that currently meets in Duluth once a month at the Hillside Community Center. Next meeting will be 9/16 10a-12p. Bob Grydtahl is a part of this committee and we will follow up with Bob to see if there can be an additional representative from the commission to sit on this commission. Bob is currently at a national housing summit in Washington D.C. and he may also have further information and suggestions when he returns.

c. Amanda shared information regarding the Career Access Pilot Project proposed to address Social Security Reform in 5 states as a pilot project. Ann will write an additional letter to our representatives and congressman at the state level to encourage them to use Minnesota as a pilot project state. Amanda suggested that Nolan and Klobuchar be contacted regarding this project and updated the commission that this has already been addressed during a Hill visit in Washington the end of July.

d. Discussion of paperwork and assessment changes for accessing PCA services in Duluth. Historically this has been customized per each individual but now it will be compiled into one big document that is not person centered. The assessment has gone from about 1 hour of time to 3-4 hours to assess the Long Term Care Consultation for each person. St. Louis County is hiring about 10 new Social Workers to address the increased time of each assessment. In addition there is a need for a lot of extra paperwork. The commission agreed to keep this on the radar in case we want to sit down with Anna Bushey to discuss this in the future.

e. Dwight Morrison, guest, has stated that he has witnessed individuals at community planning meetings for accessible trails stating that they do not have to follow the ADA. He has asked the commission to write a support letter to the city that supports universal design. (Amanda will address this comment in the Parks and Rec report). There were no motions or decisions made on this subject today.

f. 5. Signage Requests- Outstanding Reports- there were no outstanding signage requests and no new signage requests.

6. Action & Advocacy Reports

g. Parks & Recreation –Amanda gave a report on the Western Waterfront advisory committee meeting. Amanda offered to educate individuals and their prospective groups on Universal Design. Dwight reported that there is still some backlash against Universal Design from community members even though Jim Filby Williams addressed the Western Waterfront committee members with a proclamation stating the city will follow Universal Design and ADA regulations.

h. Transportation Committee – There were no new reports.

i. Olmstead Plan Update – Question proposed...There are Olmstead dollars based on housing services. Is funding coming to Duluth? Shouldn't there be?

4. Other Business

Amanda asked if someone would be willing to take the meeting notes for the October 7th commission meeting since she will be out of town.

5. Announcements – Duluth is a finalist for a possible shot at a “billion dollar” grant through HUD.

Disability Commission is looking for new commissioners to join.

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

The next Commission on Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 3:00pm at City Hall, room 303.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Crosby
Interim Secretary