

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2017

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|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Amber Madoll | P | Michelle McDonald | P |
| Amanda Crosby | E | Randall Vogt | A |
| Beverly Richardson | P | Ann Roscoe | P |
| Amy Burke | P | Roberta Cich | P |
| Gerald Salveson | A | Carl Crawford – Staff | E |

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Ann Roscoe.

Mark Bauer was present for part of the meeting to discuss parking signage requests.

Approval of the agenda

Ann added a DTA/STRIDE report from Roberta to the Agenda.

- The agenda was approved as amended. (Beverly/Amy)

Approval of March minutes & Current Agenda

Corrections to the March minutes include adding Roberta to the roster, suggestions were made to change some of the wording under ‘Disability Related Issues’ to clarify the concerns with the three housing complexes.

- Corrected March minutes were approved. (Michelle/Amy)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Action and Advocacy Reports

Residential Accessible Parking Signage Requests:

- Mark Bauer was present to discuss the changes in the process for handling residential accessible signage requests. Previously, signage requests would go to the City. Many were approved, but if there were questions or it wasn’t clear, the request would go to the Commission. Commission members would then go to the person’s property to assess the situation. Safety and liability concerns have been raised with Commission members going to private homes and onto private property.
- Currently, the City’s legal time is reviewing a process for changing this process – including developing a checklist.
- Commission members have asked for regular updates and to have input into the process.

DTA/STRIDE update: Roberta provided a brief update regarding the use of additional funding received by the DTA.

- The DTA plans to create some new routes on the fixed route system. There are also plans to buy a new STRIDE bus and add 8 hours of STRIDE service.
- Jim Heileg has retired from DTA. Sophia Parr is the new DTA person who will be able to speak to accessibility concerns with both the DTA and STRIDE.
- Action:** Roberta will invite Sophia to the May Commission meeting.

Special Events/Accessibility

The Commission discussed the need to address some issues that need take priority at this time. Commission members expressed a desire to have the support necessary from the City to make this committee successful.

Current Disability Issues

ADA Accessibility Training

The ADA training for businesses was held on March 21st and was very successful. Both trainers had very good presentations. The Commission would like to repeat this training with the hope that more business owners and City staff would attend.

Temporary sidewalks and construction in Duluth

The construction site where they are building the new housing on Maple Grove Road has completely blocked the sidewalk with no alternative for pedestrians. Amy has visited the site and spoken to the construction manager on site who reported to her that he was given permission from the City to have that sidewalk blocked for the entire summer and into fall.

- Amy reported that she has previously spoken to City staff about this type of problem when the sidewalk at the Kenwood housing construction site was blocked. She was told that it wouldn't happen again.
- Amy was also told there would be temporary curb cuts last fall at this site and permanent ones as soon as possible. Neither has happened.
- The Commission would like to write a letter to the Mayor and City Counselors expressing our concerns regarding the continued problems with construction projects creating a lack of access and dangerous situations for people with disabilities.
- Action:** Amber and Amy will draft the letter and send to Ann and Roberta to approve and send.

Housing affordability

There continue to be concerns over the lack of affordable housing options and the fact that the new housing projects do not seem to be affordable.

- Action:** Reconvene the Housing Task Force (Roberta, Amber, Amy, Ann).

Other Business

Commission Comprehensive Plan

Ann will request that Carl bring copies of the old Comprehensive Plan and the By-Laws to the next meeting.

Appointments of new Commission Members

Several Commission members expressed frustration over the fact that the Commission has several openings, several people have applied, but appointments have not been made.

- Action:** Set up a meeting to address these concerns with Carl and Phil Jenz.
- Reminder:** All Commission meetings are open to the public, so we can invite those interested to attend.

Announcements

There were no additional announcements

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 4:00. (Michelle/Amber)

The next Commission on Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 3, 2017 3:00 pm at City Hall, room 303.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Cich