

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Commission on Disabilities
Wednesday
March 6, 2019
3:00 pm Room 303 City Hall

Ann Roscoe P

Amanda Crosby E

Tom Furman P

Guests:

Amy Burke P

Roberta Cich P

Dianne Naus P

Mark Bauer

Michelle McDonald P

Meghan Terella P

Carl Crawford

Beverly Richarson A

Laurie Berner P

Laura Laaksonen

Mark Baker

Josh Smerdon

Samantha Smigler

Welcome, Roll Call, and Meeting opening at 3:03 pm

- 1. Approval of Agenda MSC (Roscoe, Burke)**
- 2. Approval of February 2019 Meeting Minutes MSC (Burke, Roscoe)**
- 3. Public Comment/Information:** None
- 4. Accessible Parking Update** – Mr. Bauer reports continues to have an increase in discussion on ADA.

February's Parking Commission Meeting approved the following: 615 N 58th Ave W, 2108 W 1st St, 326 N 23rd Ave W, 505 N 57th Ave W

March's Parking Commission Meeting approved the following: 3229 Chestnut St, 2116 W 3rd St,

Ordean Building Accessible Parking - Mr. Bauer shared two 4 hours ADA parking spots will be installed on the north 400th block of Michigan. Mr. Bauer shared the front of Ordean and the removal of ADA parking spots is an ongoing issue that he and Mr. Crawford continue to be active in.

Discussion between Commission included Chair Cich updating she contacted MN Council on Disabilities and Todd Grudahl (MNDOT) with the result of Mr. Grugel being willing to be involved. Chair Cich will reach out to Mr. Grugel as needed regarding parking and Superior Street (Ordean bldg).

Mr. Crawford assured the Commission that the Parking Commission and the City are engaged. Mr. Crawford requests that any reasonable accommodation request is in writing.

More discussion included Josh Smerdon stating there is no parking outside of the Workforce Center on 1st Street – the spot is there but snow is creating a barrier and the ability for any vehicle and accessible vehicles to drop off. Mr. Bauer recommends sharing parking concerns on the City website Parking Page - <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parking/on-street-parking/> This city website site is monitored.

- 5. Parks and Rec** – In Ms. Crosby's absence, Chair Cich gave report: March 13 the DWP Plan will be reviewed. This plan is for a multi-use trail in the western area of Duluth. See report. There may also be an opening for another Commission member to be part of the Parks and Rec. Commission. Anyone interested should contact Ms. Crosby.

6. Old Business

Event Checklist – No changes. Mr. Crawford will continue to monitor.

7. New Business

UMD Access for All - Mr. Crawford shared the group has reached out and wishes to network with the Commission. The group has a meeting scheduled for April and Mr. Crawford advises a Commission member attends. Commissioner Furman showed an interest and Mr. Crawford will forward the information.

City of Duluth Planning Department – Chair Cich and Mr. Crawford met with the department following the department's shared desire to increase inclusion in city work environments. The Planning Dept is looking for People 1st Language so Chair Cich is bringing a presentation to the department on March 28th at 10:00 am.

Disability Mural Project – The College St. Scholastica will host a free public reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in the Student Union. The mural is on display through March 28. The mural's purpose is to help observers consider the unique perspectives and experiences of individuals who live with disability. (information provided from the college's website).

8. Current Disability Issues

Second phase of Superior Street construction: See Mr. Bauer's report in Accessible Parking section of minutes.

Snow Removal Task Force – Task Force did not meet.

"We Walk in Duluth" – Representatives from 'We Walk in Duluth' spoke to the Commission on a grass root organization just starting in Duluth with a focus on walking and the systems in Duluth involving snow removal, transit, and city policy. The group is gathering March 6 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Zeitgeist.

Straws – The letter from the Commission regarding our concerns about a ban on straws has been sent to Bag It Duluth. Because this is topic is currently in the news, and more local restaurants are banning straws, the Commission would like to send a letter to the Duluth News Tribune regarding the unintended consequences straw bans have for people with disabilities.

MSC (Roscoe, Furman) to send a Letter to the Editor on how the local straw ban proposal affects people with disabilities. Chair Cich will review a final draft and send to Commission.

9. Other Business and Announcements

Elections – Chair Cich and Mr. Crawford will review Commission Bylaws. **MSC (Furman, Berner) to relax Bylaws and keep the current slate of officers until next election cycle.**

10. Adjourn MSC (Roscoe, Terella) at 4:10 pm

Next Meeting: April 3, 2019 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle McDonald