

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Commission on Disabilities
Wednesday
August 7, 2019
3:00 pm Room 303 City Hall

Amanda Crosby A
Amy Burke P
Michelle McDonald P
Beverly Richardson P
Dianne Naus P

Tom Furman P
Robert Cich P
Meghan Terella P
Laurie Berner P
Ann Roscoe P

Guests:
Mark Bauer
Tara Wilson

Welcome, Roll Call, and Meeting opening at 3:01pm

1. **Approval of Agenda MSC (Burke, Roscoe)**
2. **Approval of June 2019 Meeting Minutes** – No motion to approve as minutes incomplete due to not having all the information. Secretary McDonald will obtain June Meeting Minutes Agenda items 1-3 from Ms. Terella and present at a later date.
3. **Public Comment/Information:** Meeting protocol: Chair Cich requests that guests in attendance, who are not already the Agenda to speak, use Public Comment/Information or Other Business, Announcements and Additional Public to comment in order to maintain meeting efficiency and protocol.
4. **Accessible Parking Update:**
 - a. **Ordean Building accessible parking:** Jim Benning (in attendance) and Duncan Schwensohn (not in attendance) have come up with an alternative to increase the accessible parking in front of the Ordean Building. Mr. Benning presented the options and Mr. Bauer added additional information to increase the Commission's understanding. Chair Cich thanked Mr. Benning and Ms. Berner shared the Ordean Building's appreciation for the work that has been done by Mr. Benning and Mr. Schwensohn. Ms. Berner requested a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate when the work is complete.

The work will be complete by the end of 2019's construction season.

The Commission would like to give thanks to Chair Cich for her tireless work on this issue and to her credit accessible parking will once again be available on Superior Street our front of Ordean Building. Thank you Roberta!
 - b. **Parking update:** Mr. Bauer shared info on current and proposed parking for the Ordean Building on Michigan Street - 2 spaces with a 4 hour limit along with an additional space with no time limit. Mr. Bauer looked to Commission for agreement to maintain all 3 spaces – Commission agreement. Additional report of June 7th Parking Commission mtg results included a motion to approve 1 ADA request for West 4th St and during Aug 2nd Parking Commission meeting, 2 ADA requests approved.
5. **Parks and Rec - Old Business** – No report as Ms. Crosby absent. Chair Cich did speak on Mud Lake Cosway and how final details still need to be worked out.
6. **Old Business**

Employment Conference: Ms. Crosby and Mr. Crawford – both absent. Ms. Berner shared updated information and requested the Commission to register and promote the event.

Information from past Commission Minutes includes: The City of Duluth is planning a conference to raise awareness for hiring and employing individuals with disabilities along with accessibility and ADA as it relates to accommodations. Sub Committee formed and includes: Ms. Crosby, Sonia Vinnes, Bruce Bock, and other employment specialists. Current info includes: Event is August 21, 10a to 3pm Aad Shrine Event Center/Hermantown. Target audience is Employers and HR Professionals.

7. New Business – None

8. Current Disability Issues

- a. ADA Celebration** – Ms. Berner reported it was a wonderful event for the 29th Anniversary of the Signing of the ADA on August 2nd held on Park Point. The attendance was low but the speakers were incredible reported Ms. Berner. The Aquarium was presented with an award for their part in being an outstanding in ADA and accessibility. Unfortunately, a storm caused the event to end early.
- b. Snow Removal Task Force** – Chair Cich reported things are coming together with the city’s Pilot Project for snow removal being billed as “Snow Removal Assistance Project”. A website is being developed with info and tips for service along with an online application. Cheryl Skafte continues to be the point person for the project.
- c. New DTA stop kick-off** – Chair Cich shared info on the new bus stop near the Aquarium. The route is numbered Route 24 with a ribbon cutting expected on Aug 26th at 10 am. Ms. Terella agreed to represent the Commission at the event.

9. Other Business, Announcements, and additional Public Comment – Ms. Berner shared the Arc Northland Family Picnic celebrating National Night Out held at the Aquarium on Aug 6 was phenomenal!

Long term Commission Member Ann Roscoe has resigned her position, effective immediately. The Commission thanks Ms. Roscoe for her dedication and persistence to issues facing people with disabilities and other barriers.

Ms. Berner spoke on Mayor’s 5 Initiative – Streets, Environment, Housing, Employment, Transportation. Ms. Berner commented that the Mayor did not speak on the largest minority group, persons with disabilities.

Chair Cich urged Commission to stay up on progress by connecting with the Facebook page of Duluth. Ms. Terella shared she visited the Cedar Lounge in Superior and spoke to one of the owners who was very responsive to issues on accessibility.

Mr. Bauer wanted to commend Mr. Crawford’s time and talent with the Ordean Building’s accessible parking was above and beyond! Thank you Carl!

10. Adjourn – MSC (Berner, Burke) at 3:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle McDonald
Secretary