



Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022

Commissioners:

Laurie Berner - P
Ashlie Castaldo - P
Roberta Cich – P
Amanda Crosby - P
Allison Fochs - P
Tom Furman - A
Dianne Naus - A
Samantha Smingler – P

Also present: Carl Crawford, Mark Bauer, Laura Laaksonen, Kimberly Scanlon, Guest

Chair Berner called the September 2022 Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:05 PM, there was a quorum.

Approval of current agenda: MS/C – (Crosby/Cich)

Approval of the August minutes: MS/C – (Fochs/Crosby)

Public Comment/Information: No public comment.

Guest Speaker: Kimberly Scanlon represents Elder Care Development Partnership (EDP) is a part of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA). Ms. Scanlon provided information to the Commission about several of the programs within AAAA.

- Senior Linkage Line is an Information and Assistance (I and A) phone line with highly trained staff. Senior Linkage is designed to be a one-stop-shop for people needing resources for everything from insurance to home care to community resources. They also provide PAS (pre-admission screening for nursing homes). Community Living Specialists work with people who want to return home from the hospital or nursing home. They will follow up and support individuals served for five years.
- Grant Management for Title III grants. Most Title III money in our area goes to Age Well Arrowhead.
- Juniper is a statewide network that provides information on local health promotion programs.
- EDP - Apply for Federal grants
They provide technical support and assistance to various organizations with the goal of helping people stay out of nursing homes. They also help with strategic planning and Board development.
- Current top 5 Aging Service Gaps
 1. Transportation
 2. Chore Services
 3. Housing
 4. Workforce
 5. Crisis Stabilization
- There are many local collaborations working towards becoming an Age Friendly Community including Dementia Friendly Duluth and Ecolibrium3.
- Contact info - kscanlon@ardc.org

Accessible Parking Update:

Officer Bauer reported that 2 new requests for ADA parking spots were approved at the August Parking Commission meeting. There are 2 new requests for the September meeting.

Parks and Rec Report:

- Commissioner Crosby reported that new accessible playground equipment has been selected and purchased. The Commission looks forward to seeing this playground when completed.
- The Parks department will be looking at accessibility at each park and will develop a way to put this information on the website.
- The Essential Places Plan is open for public comment. Commissioner Crosby has read the entire plan and highlighted areas relevant to accessibility. Ms. Laaksonen will email the information to Commissioners.
- Commissioner Crosby provided information to the Commission regarding the proposed Parks referendum that will be on the Ballot in November. This referendum is meant to restore much needed funding to the Parks Department.

Old Business:

Snow Removal Task Force

Snow Removal Assistance Program

- Chair Berner has connected with someone at Age Well and AAAA. They would like to see more of a plan in place before joining the conversation.
- Commissioner Cich wrote a letter outlining the importance of the Snow Removal Assistance Program and asking the City to provide continued support. Chair Berner and Commissioner Crosby edited the letter and provided feedback. The letter was emailed to Mayor Larson on September 1st. There has been no response.
- There was a lot of discussion about possible partnerships and collaborations. Commissioners agree that the City should be taking the lead on coordinating this program. The Snow Removal Task Force will set up a meeting soon to talk about next steps.

Bus Stop Snow Removal:

Commissioner Cich reported that there has been little movement this past month.

New Business: None

Current Disability Issues:

Bayfront Stride drop-off: Commissioner Cich reported that the DTA has sent a letter to the City about this issue and is waiting for a reply.

Other Business/Announcements: None

Correspondence/Public Comment: None

Announcements: None

Adjourn: 4:30 PM.

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 3:00 PM
City Hall Room 430