

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2014

Melissa Booth	E	Beverly Richardson	P
Amy Burke	P	Ann Roscoe	P
Amanda Crosby	P	Gerald Salveson	P
Erica Erickson	P	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Amy Hill	A	Derek Uttley	A
Shane Lueck	E	Randall Vogt	P
Amber Madoll	P	Beth Wilde	P
Michelle McDonald	P	Bob Grytdahl – Staff	P
Becky Perrett	P		

1. Roll Call & Approval of Current Agenda

-Jim Heilig from the DTA was added to the agenda, to present on Stride; added the Transportation Committee Report as item 6c and Olmstead Plan update as item 6d as ongoing agenda items.

-Motion to approve with changes: Beverly Strongitharm, second by Michelle McDonald.

2. Welcome and Commissioner's Updates

3. Approval of August Minutes

-Correction of Amy Burke's name, which was misspelled in the minutes

-Motion to approve agenda with change: Beth Wilde, Second by Becky Perrett

4. Current Disability Issues

-Discussion of support animals and services animals, what are the differences, how are they regulated, and what limitations are there for people with such animals in public and in private businesses; Bob will email the Department of Justice regulations to the Commission

-Also discussed the legality of completely blocking off a public right of way, such as during street dances when members of the public are prohibited from passing through a given area via the street and sidewalk without paying a fee

-Service Animal discussion will be added to next month's agenda, as it drew a lot of interest and discussion from the Commission

5. Signage Requests

-No signage requests this month; no action or recommendations will be made by the Commission regarding the removal of signage that is no longer being used. Neighbors,

residents, and community members can complain and make reports if they notice signage is no longer being used in order to have it removed.

6. Speaker – Jim Heilig, Duluth Transit Authority – Discussion/Update on Stride

Jim gave a detailed presentation about Stride. Stride services about 130 riders per day. Stride has 6 vehicles, 4 busses and 2 smaller MV-1 vehicles. Stride ridership is up about 5% this year. The growth is mainly due to the lack of other accessible transportation options. On average, about 92% of each ride is subsidized; fares cover only about 8%. State funding of Stride has been frozen for the past 5 years. The City helps fund Stride and the federal government helps with funding as well, but only for the Stride vehicles. Stride has the same hours as the regular DTA routes. If you call by 2:00 p.m., you are guaranteed to get a ride the next day within a one hour window of your requested time. This is a requirement for Stride to receive funding from the federal government. If you are in Superior, you are guaranteed your ride within a 15 minute window. For a ride, you may call up to one week in advance, but not more than a week in advance. Stride experiences about 600 cancellations for scheduled rides each month. Oftentimes, you may be able to get a ride with Stride on the same day you call, but this is not guaranteed.

From June 22-Sept 22, 2015 the NW Passage to the DECC will be closed for construction of the new transportation center. During this time, free shuttles will run 3 times per hour, along with the trolley with the lift to transport people between downtown and the DECC. Additionally, the Lonsdale Building will keep its portion of the Skywalk open after hours to provide access to the DECC, while the Alworth Building's Skywalk will be open during normal business hours.

7. Action & Advocacy Reports

- a. Parks & Recreation – Amanda Crosby provided a report on the August meeting of the Parks and Rec Commission. There was discussion about dog parks and it did not seem as though the dog parks would be made accessible or incorporate ADA standards. The dog parks are not receiving much money from the City and will be expected to be kept up by community members who use the dog parks. Amanda will discuss accessibility concerns with the Parks Commission regarding the dog parks. The upcoming repair and renovation of Wade Stadium was also discussed, as Duluth is receiving a substantial amount money from the bonding bill. Renovations should be made to increase the accessibility of the stadium, but due to its existing structure it will not be able to be made completely accessible. Amanda will inquire as to what accessibility issues will be improved and which will not and if further improvements can be made.
- b. Homeless Bill of Rights – No updates this month.

- c. Transportation Committee – Tabled until next month. Commission members are asked to review the petition Shane Lueck drafted regarding accessible transportation prior to next month’s meeting.
 - d. Olmstead Plan Update – Tabled until next month.
8. St. Louis County Health & Human Services Conference
The Conference is October 9-10, 2014. Commission members may sign up for time slots to be present at our table by emailing Bob.
9. Public Comment - None
10. Other Business
Bob will update the membership list, as we have many new members.
11. Announcements - None
12. Adjourn
-Motion by Michelle McDonald, Second by Beth Wilde

The next Commission on Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at 3:00pm at City Hall, room 303.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica M. Erickson
Chair