

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
January 5, 2011

Melissa Booth	P	Francis McGee	P
Clara Borrell	E	Patti Nadeau	E
Debra Burmeister	A	Tony Rubin	P
Roberta Cich	P	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Erika Erickson	P	Karin Swor	E
Lindsey Harkreader	P	Glenn Tridgell	P
Sara Junge	P	Randall Vogt	P
Durbin Keeney	P	Galen White	P
Lars Kuehnou	P	Bob Grytdahl—staff	P

1. December Minutes/January Agenda

December minutes approved as written; current agenda approved as written

2. Signage Requests

No signage requests today.

3. Action reports:

A. Snow removal task force: Media coverage from Fox News and the Duluth News Tribune highlighting the importance of shoveling. Community event tentatively being planned for February. Ideas of a resource list to distribute to the community were discussed. United Way 211 has volunteered to evaluate the list to make sure the resources are legitimate. The task force may also take nominations and give ‘golden shovel’ awards at the end of the season.

B. Parks and Recreation: This is the report from Patti. As you know, the Master Plan is on the table for the City Council. This plan has had a lot of effort put into it by many hard working, thoughtful people. The most important piece to remember about this plan is just that - it is a fluid plan to be worked with like an outline. Individual communities and their members and the City Council will have input into anything done - it is a set of guidelines to set a course when funds become available. This is an important piece of the planning process to guide decisions in the future.

Also, a Trails Master Plan will be coming. Input will be invited and welcome during this process. The Parks & Rec Commission will be electing new officers in February so we do not yet know who will be Chair of the Trails Committee. Nick Lansing is the current Chair but his term is up in March. When that is decided I will pass this on to Randy and DeWayne (Trails on Wheels) as their input will be crucial.

C. Accessibility and Tourism Task Force: Julia with People with Disabilities for Change is interested in being a part of this task force. Who from the commission is interested in taking charge and collaborating? Randy Vogt expressed interest in taking the lead on this topic for the commission.

D. DECC Auditorium accessible seating – Galen White, Lindsey and inviting Jeff Anderson to contact Dan Russell to move the discussion forward.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Elections – Lars shared the nomination list.

Melissa Booth was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary. Clara Borrell was nominated for the position of Vice Chair but was not present to accept. Galen White nominated herself for the position of Vice Chair and accepted the position.

Sara Junge was nominated and accepted the position of Chair.

Discussed creating the position of past chair, which Roberta expressed interest in supporting.

6. Proposed amendment to Commission Bylaws – Following elections, current chair will transition into the position of past chair as is signified in Section 1. D under ‘Officers’. Past chair, if they accept the position, will have duties of advising the new chair.

Durbin Keeney made the motion to amend the Bylaw to add the above statement. All present were in favor. To be voted by 2/3 majority next meeting.

Thank you Roberta for your years of service and patience as Commission Chair!

7. Announcements

A. 13 Th Annual Citizens in Action 2011 Workshop – Saturday, January 29, 2011 - 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 835 West College Street

B. Focus Groups – The city continues to solicit volunteers for focus groups. It is open to Duluth residents and those selected will get \$35.

Next commission meeting will take place February 2, 2011. Room 303 City Hall Sara Junge will not be present. Galen White will conduct the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Commission Secretary

SJ:jm