

City of Duluth  
Commission on Disabilities  
Monthly Meeting  
May 5, 2010

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

Guests: Sara Lipinski-Romagnoli and Ken Buehler.

1. Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes as stated.
2. Signage Requests – None
3. Public comment or announcement – None
4. Correspondence – None noted
5. Parks and Recreation Report
  - a. Northern Lights Express Rail – Ken Buehler gave a background on the high speed rail project and meeting with Congressman Oberstar. The transportation bill supporting the funding is on hold in Congress and the necessary studies are being or have already been completed. He gave details on the specifics of the proposed line including stops and trip times. The train will also be fully accessible from the station platform to the bathrooms. Hope to have the train running by 2014. For more information, they have a Facebook and website page. Search for ‘Northern Lights Express Rail’. Ken also spoke to some of the accessibility changes that have been made at the Depot and Northshore Scenic Railroad regarding wheel chair lift, relaying of brick and the added accessible bathroom on the lower level.

*Motion made by Patti Nadeau and seconded by Durbin Keeney that we, as a disability commission, support all transportation options for individuals in our community that incorporate universal design. In particular, we support the plan to establish service between Duluth and Minneapolis on the Northern Lights Rail Express. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

- b. Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Meeting May 12 at 4:00 p.m. Central Hillside Community Center. Consultants will present on the master plan. All are invited to attend.

6. Transportation Task Force

- a. No report. Melissa reported that she has met with the transportation coalition (the Commission on Disability, People with Disabilities for Change and North Country).
- b. We will revisit this topic and receive updates as the year continues, but perhaps a formed task force is no longer necessary.

7. Strategic Planning

We reviewed the action steps and goals created. The following ideas/actions were proposed moving forward:

Action Step: Partner with community groups regarding employment with people with disabilities.

Volunteers: Sara Romagnoli, Ericka Erickson and Lars Kuehnow.  
Roberta will chair.

Ideas: Incorporate ADA training from Cindy Tarshish with ADA MN. Her expertise is in the area of employment. Develop a public presentation perhaps through the Public Policy Format with the Chamber and invite groups such as Lake Superior Association of HR Managers.

Action Step: Help spread the word on emergency preparedness specific to the disability community.

The presentation with Margo from MNSCOD has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 2. Should we open it up to the public? Individuals? Employers? Pursue a new location?

Discussion followed regarding new location options, and maybe moving up the time to earlier in the day.

8. Other Business

- a. West Duluth Kmart has made changes regarding how they are setting up their greenhouse space to allow for accessible parking. Should we send a thank you to the manager?
- b. Durbin thanked the commission for all the work we do on behalf of accessibility for the people of our community in light of recent accessibility challenges on his trip abroad.
- c. The Children's Miracle League partnered with the city to build an accessible field at Harrison. They need additional funding for the surface.

- d. Memorial Day at the Vietnam Memorial Mark Rubin will speak and play music.
- e. National Trail Day – June 5, 2010. Wheels on Trails will be at Hartley Nature Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and introducing their Expanding Horizons trail mentoring project.
- f. Presentation – Thursday, May 20, 2010 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the WorkForce Center Conference Room A on “Creating Inclusive Workforce Development for Youth and Adults with Learning Disabilities”.

9. Other

*July meeting – Lars Kuehnow made a motion to forego the July commission meeting. Many commissioners seconded. vote was unanimous to not have a meeting in July.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge  
Commission Secretary

SJ:jm