

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
June 2, 2010

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

Guest: Margot Imdieke Cross, Accessibility Specialist, Minnesota State Council on Disability.

1. Agenda: The corrected agenda with topic presentation for today and announcing no July meeting was approved with motion made by Durbin Keeney and Fran McGee.
2. May minutes approved as written.
3. Signage requests – None
4. Public Comment/Announcements
 - a. Bev shared a personal thank you to the commission from a citizen that voiced concern and the repair that was made to an inaccessible railroad crossing in Lakeside.
 - b. People with Disabilities for Change presented a certificate to Custom Cab and received some press and TV coverage as well.
 - c. Disabled veterans in need of a wheelchair or accessible vehicles may contact Durbin and MACV. They have equipment available for free for veterans.
 - d. National Trail Day June 5. Help celebrate with WOT at Hartley Park.
 - e. The new Playfront Park has been built. They are getting ready to pour the rubber surface. Ribbon cutting this Friday at 4:00 p.m.
 - f. The Radisson hotel is making renovations that do not including making their restrooms more accessible. Roberta wants to address the hotel on this issue. *Karin Swor made a motion with Fran McGee seconding that the Commission approve to initiate the effort. Motion approved by all.*
5. Presentation on Emergency Preparedness for people with disabilities by Margot Imdieke Cross, Accessibility Specialist with the MN State Council on Disability.

- a. Emergency preparedness is a personal responsibility and everyone needs a plan.
- b. They are an independent state agency that advises the governor, legislature, and the public on disability issues.
- c. State and federal mandates appoint that each county have an emergency preparedness plan in place and that the plan address the disability population. This includes notification for people who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as transportation.
- d. Margot provided education on disability and definitions, stressed using your 'ability' in an emergency, training others, and the importance of creating a plan.
- e. There are four (4) elements to evacuation that all people need to be aware of:
 - i. Notification
 - ii. Way finding
 - iii. Use of the way
 - iv. Assistance

There is some controversy around the idea of defend in place (going to a designated area and waiting for first responders) or evacuating with the rest of the general population.

- f. Discussion included the idea of a community-wide emergency plan. To include or not include a registry for vulnerable populations such as people with disability or the elderly?
- g. Margot provided copies of 'Emergency Preparedness: A Guide for People with Disabilities' by the Minnesota State Council on Disability.
- h. Stressed the importance of creating a plan and practicing. Meet with household members, have someone close by be a part of your plan, and consider different types of emergency. Create an evacuation plan and disaster supply kit or a two-week stay at home plan with supply kit.

Next commission meeting will be August 4, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Commission Secretary

SJ:jm