

**Commission on Disabilities Meeting  
Wednesday, August 7th, 2024| 3:30 PM  
City Hall Room 430**

**Present:** Ashlie Castaldo, Brooke Marinan, Marie Anderson, Amanda Paszak, Michaela Mullin, Jill Johnson, Allison Fochs

**Guests Present:** Laura Laaksonen (Human Rights Assistant,) Mark Bauer (Parking Services Manager,) Heather Peterson (guest)

**Approval of the June 2024 minutes M/S/C (Paszak/Fochs)**

**Current Disability Issues and Announcements**

- A. Public Safety Ordinances and Commission Involvement – The commission was not consulted on the ordinances related to encampments and other public safety issues. along with most other community groups/agencies. Offers were extended to the administration to discuss it but ignored. Commissioners expressed desire to be partners in future discussions that would affect people with disabilities like many of the unhoused individuals these ordinances impact.
  
- B. Partnerships with Other Commissions – other commissions have reached out looking to work together on future projects. There is opportunity there.
  
- C. Disability Pride Month events recap – Lighthouse students attended the Caravan event which was well done. Commissioner Castaldo was part of the DTA panel and at the state capital for events.

**Accessible Parking Update:**

New Applications:	902 Central Ave – approved 923 S. Lake Ave – approved 3813 W Fifth St – approved
Proposed:	615 N. 56 <sup>th</sup> Ave W 2904 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.

The board discussed with office Bauer some of the thought Parking Commissions thought process behind the 902 Central Ave application related to electric vehicle charging, and what may happen as more people need to have a car close to their home to plug in and how that relates to accessible parking.

**Parks and Rec Report** – Commissioner Marinan’s first meeting is next week

**Annual Goals - Updates** Involvement in Transportation and City Traffic Accessibility – working on setting up a meeting with Kelli Latuska regarding an awareness campaign on crosswalks

**New Business**

- a. ISD 709 Concerns – the accessible door to the transit center

hasn't been working, commissioners will check to see if it is fixed

- b. Commissioner Fochs brought up an issue related to preschools as she works at one – if a child has a disability and needs a para, they have to attend the ISD 709 preschool program; nobody provides paras outside of that program. This can make for a class of children who all or mostly have disabilities and can create a segregated atmosphere. The board discussed their experiences with paras and the district.

## **Old Business**

Hard of Hearing/Law Enforcement Conference Update – this event will be in February at the public library.

**Public Comment:** Heather Peterson shared her experience with her kids attending Hermantown School. She has had trouble getting her child's diagnosis in the IEP and therefore proper accommodations; attendance is an issue and she isn't getting the understanding or help her family needs. The commissioners offered some advice on addressing this such as letters from health providers and dealing with IEPs.

Commissioners brought up cross walks not working properly at north side of 1<sup>st</sup> St & Lake, and north side of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave W and Superior St.

## **Adjourn**