

Duluth Commission on Disabilities Meeting

November 6th 2024 3:30 pm

City Hall Room 430

Commissioners Present: Ashlie Castaldo, Brooke Marinan, Allison Fochs; Jill Johnson; Michelle McDonald; Michaela Mullin, Marie Anderson, Amanda Paszak

Commissioners Absent: Chris Johnson (excused)

Guests: Laura Laaksonen, City of Duluth; Mark Bauer, Duluth Parking, Jon Rix; Elinor Rosenberg, Rod Fournier (DTA) , Kevin Dale (DTA) James Gittemeier (City of Duluth transportation planner)

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1. Chair Castaldo called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.
2. Approval of November 2024 minutes (McDonald, Fochs)
3. Accessible Parking Update
 - 2227 E First St – approved
 - 329 W Third St – approved
 - 1703 & 1721 E Third – Hillcrest and Lakeview Apartments – approved pending ADA review
 - 806 E 4th St – Approved
 - 7152 E 8th St – Approved
 - Halcion House @ 11 E Michigan – pending next month
4. Guest Speaker: Rod Fournier, Duluth Transit Authority and Kevin Dale, Paratransit Operations for DTA

Rod and Kevin gave updates on ridership in post-covid years and the new Better Blueprint model. Stride ridership numbers have bounced back well from the pandemic. DTA has ordered 9 new busses for regular routes with much better wheelchair securements that can be operated by the individual. They are hiring 2 new people to help with snow removal at bus shelters. They have 2 new board members for the DTA who have visual impairment disabilities which has brought new perspectives to the board. Commissioners asked questions about specific things that

have happened using the bus and Mr. Fournier responded with what DTA policies are and numbers to contact with problems, as well as some options for Light House to utilize Stride with their students.

5. Guest Speaker: James Gittemeier, Senior Transportation Planner

Discussed Superior Steet reconstruction happening next year from Garfield Ave to Carlton St (through the Lincoln Park business district) and showed mock ups and pictures of the plans. It hasn't been updated since the 1930s and needs have changed. Will come with major A.D.A improvements, safer crosswalks, new bus stop amenities, benches and green space, and a dedicated bike lane off the street but separate from the sidewalk. Bump outs will slow traffic and it will include new environmentally friendly systems for water runoff.

6. Parks and Rec Report - no report this month

11. Adjourn