

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
March 5, 2014

Melissa Booth	P	Amber Madoll	P
Michelle McDonald	P	Francis McGee	A
Roberta Cich	A	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Erica Erickson	P	Karin Swor	A
Amanda Crosby	P	Randall Vogt	E
Derek Uttley	P	Amy Hill	P
Gerald Salvesson	P	Bob Grytdahl-Staff	P

Guest: Mike Palermo, Community Development Division

1. Approval of Minutes & Current Agenda

Michelle motioned to approve minutes and agenda, Beverly seconded the motion.

2. Signage Requests-

- a. 1634 Cliff Avenue, Derek recommended approval.
- b. 2805 W. 1st Street, Amanda recommended approval.
- c. 924 E. 9th Street-Michelle does not recommend approval due to the presence of a driveway with an accessible pathway.
- d. 1505 101st Ave. W. –Melissa recommended approval.
- e. 408 N. 54th Ave. W- Gerald does not recommend approval.

Melissa made a motion to submit the commission's recommendations to the City Traffic Engineer. Beverly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Action and Advocacy Reports

- a. Parks and Recreation- There was no new reports.
- b. Homeless Bill of Rights- Next Wednesday at 6pm (March 12) the human rights commission is breaking into groups to assess the Homeless Bill of Rights and learn what the issues are (for example mental health issues and chemical issues).
- c. City of Duluth Housing Summit- There was no new reports.
- d. Tourism Task Force-There was no new reports.

4. Public Comment- Mike Palermo from the Community Development Division with the City of Duluth spoke with commissioners. He is completing an "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice." The department is starting their next 5 year plan and wants commissioners' input on what issues we see that impacts community members who are disabled with finding decent affordable housing. Also, what are some housing trends that we see affecting community members who are disabled that are positive and/or negative?

Some suggestions that were given from commissioners included economic status and affordability of accessible housing. There aren't enough affordable apartments that are accessible for renters with disabilities. Stairs are an issue for many people with disabilities. Older housing is an issue, without enough investment in new housing that meets ADA requirements. Just being able to get into the building is an issue for some members of the community. There is a lack of municipal code

enforcement-either not enough manpower or lack of clarity about whose responsibility it is to enforce the municipal code.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions for Mike, you can email him at MPalermo@DuluthMN.gov.

5. Other Business

Melissa provided a draft of the year-end report for review and received feedback from commissioners. A final copy will be provided at the next commission meeting.

Reminder: 3-10-14 The ADA Assessment Report will be presented at 6:30pm to the City Council Committee of the Whole in a half hour presentation by the consultants JQP. There will be a Q & A session immediately after in conference room 303. The consultant has spent the past year examining all city buildings for ADA compliance. The commission's presence is encouraged at the meeting. Melissa, Erica, Michelle, and Gerald committed to attending the presentation.

6. Announcements

Officer elections: Erica Erickson will remain chair of the commission.
Amber Madoll is vice-chair.
Melissa Booth is secretary.

Michelle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Amanda seconded the motion..

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Booth
Secretary