

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday April 7, 2010

Melissa Booth	P	Francis McGee	P
Clara Borrell	E	Patti Nadeau	P
Debra Burmeister	A	Tony Rubin	P
Roberta Cich	E	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Claire Jasper	P	Karin Swor	P
Sara Junge	P	Glenn Tridgell	A
Durbin Keeney	A	Randall Vogt	P
Lars Kuehnou	A	Bob Grytdahl--staff	P

New Commissioners: Erika Erickson A
 Galen White E
 Lindsey Harkreader P

This is Claire Jasper's last meeting. She will now transition after six years on the Commission. She states she will continue working and advocating for the disability community, continue her volunteering at the zoo, and caring for her animals. She would like the Commission to keep working towards improving the skywalk system.

Thank you, Claire, for all your hard work on behalf of the Commission!

Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes as stated.

Signage requests – None

Public comment or announcements – None

Correspondence

1. St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference – October 4-5, 2010 at the DECC
2. Community Action Duluth Pucks for Poverty event April 17.
3. Community notice regarding outstanding warrants. Open day May 5 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the St. Louis County Courthouse.

Committee Reports

1. Parks and Recreation Report
 - a. Ken Buehler did not appear at our meeting to make his presentation today. He has been rescheduled for May 5.
 - b. Patti reported on a presentation from the zoo on their recently finalized 20 year master plan. Have been advocating for accessible restrooms and pathways.

- c. Park and Recreation Commission Annual Meeting – May 12, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Central Hillside Community Center. Consultants will present on the master plan. All are invited to attend.
- d. Bob noted that many playground plans have been expanded or redesigned. The ADA compliance standards for playground equipment have been in process for 10 years and are close to becoming law. Bob has been advocating for the new city plans to be in compliance with those proposed standards. Asked for Patti's assistance to bring this forward to the Parks and Recreation commission.

Discussion followed. Could the compliance language become a part of future grant proposals?

2. Transportation Task Force

- a. Melissa reported that she has been in contact with Bob Olsgaard with North County Independent Living. There is a Minnesota Department of Transportation grant program (5310) that will pay for 80% of an accessible vehicle. She has reviewed some of the case studies and only one so far has been used for public transportation, most by private non-profit groups. Applications will be accepted again in the fall. Groups that may apply include:
 - o State and local government agencies
 - o Private and public nonprofit groups
 - o Public transportation services
 - o Private operators of public transit
 - o Tribal governments

The transportation coalition (the Commission on Disabilities, People with Disabilities for Change and North County) are working to set their first meeting date.

- b. Custom Cab of Duluth bought a used accessible van with side-lift and is offering on-demand taxi service in town. Claire suggested crafting a thank you or acknowledging Custom Cab.

Bob mentioned the taxi cab inspector will need to address. What should the standards be for this service?

- c. People with Disabilities for Change is hosting a meeting on transportation April 8 from 2:30 – 3:30 at Bayshore Health Center.

3. Emergency Preparedness

Received information from MSCOD (Minnesota State Commission on Disabilities) about possible presentation dates. Commission decided to pursue the June 2nd date. Sara will contact Sara R. at the WorkForce Center to schedule this.

Strategic Planning

Action Steps created in conjunction with 2010 commission goals.

- Create an informative presentation or workshop for city councilors/mayor on disability awareness or even host a “Duluth Disability Day” in the city.
- Identify issues and challenges around snow removal in the city.
- Get commissioner involvement/representation on the complete streets taskforce.
- Help spread the word on emergency preparedness specific to the disability community.
- Partner with community groups regarding employment and people with disabilities. Educate community groups on the value of employing person’s with disabilities.
- Open discussion with the tourist board promoting Duluth as an accessible tourist destination.
- Create a short and effective advocacy speech for commissioners to employ in the community to ensure consistency regarding our mission, goals, actions, etc.

Other Business

1. PDC recently started a new initiative, ‘Accessibility Awards’, recognizing restaurants in town that are accessible and disability friendly. First award was given to Pizza Luce. Commissioners encouraged PDC to create a press release regarding this new initiative to promote it.
2. Patti announced that the Damiano Center has plans for an elevator to be installed. Construction will start in May.
3. Randy announced that the first Saturday in June is National Trails Day. WOT (Wheels on Trails) will host an event at Hartley that day. Maybe a BBQ and they will initiate their trail mentoring program this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Commission Secretary