

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2011

Melissa Booth	E	Francis McGee	P
Clara Borrell	P	Patti Nadeau	P
Debra Burmeister	A	Tony Rubin	E
Roberta Cich	P	Beverly Strongitharm	E
Erica Erickson	P	Karin Swor	E
Lindsey Harkreader	P	Glenn Tridgell	P
Sara Junge	P	Randall Vogt	P
Durbin Keeney	P	Galen White	P
Lars Kuehnow	P	Bob Grytdahl-Staff	E

June minutes were approved as written.

Agenda was approved as amended to add City Employment/Disabled Veterans under other business. Motion by Durbin Keeney. Second by Lars Kuehnow. All approved the addition.

Action Reports

1. Parks and Rec. – There was no formal report this month. A request was made for Patti Nadeau to ask about an accessible pathway to the baby swings at Playfront Park. It was noted that this playground is pretty accessible except for this area. Fran McGee notes that Keane Park is currently not accessible due to road construction.
2. Accessible Tourism Task force – Randy Vogt reported that he has spoken to others about re-thinking the strategy for the task force because this issue could be huge.
 - a. Randy has spoken to Visit Duluth. They may have some interns that can assist with a project.
 - b. Suggestion was made to work on Visit Duluth magazine
 - c. It was noted that Eastern Wisconsin does a nice job of including accessibility information in their tourism guides. Members are requested to gather any examples they have for Randy to show Visit Duluth. Lindsey Harkreader will bring her research. Randy Vogt will arrange a follow-up meeting with Visit Duluth to gather information about their magazine publication date and pitch ideas.
3. DECC/Denfeld – accessible seating – no report this month
4. Advocacy Updates
 - a. Community Action Duluth – No report this month.
 - b. Long-term Disability Parking Ordinance – Roberta Cich gave an update on the disability parking ordinance that is now being enforced.

- i. All two hour restrictions on meters have been removed . There is a four (4) hour limit for parkers with disabilities at all meters that are for one hour or more.
- ii. There is discounted parking in City owned lots and ramps
- iii. Bob reported that he has issued two Special Needs permits for employed persons to park downtown at meters.
- iv. Bob will check into any remaining two hour stickers on meters.
- v. Roberta will check into the legality of two hour limits on accessible non-metered spots.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Other Business

- a. Durbin Keeney relayed information about a Veteran with a disability who came back from Afghanistan and was fired from his city position. He did end up getting his job back, but appears there was a breakdown in the process. It has been recommended that the City receive training related to Disabled Veterans and Disabilities in general. Durbin will keep us updated on the status of this training. It is hoped that it will happen in September or October.
- b. Is there an opportunity to partner this training with the previously proposed training with the city, and state Disability Council to train on Title II of the ADA and the responsibilities of local government?

7. Announcements

- a. The Veteran Stand Down is on August 24th from 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at the Depot. Lunch will be provided at noon. Durbin Keeney will email more information.
- b. Wheels on Trails: Mesabi Trail Tour on the Iron Range on Saturday August 13. Bus leaves the Miller Hill Mall at noon and will be back by 8:00 p.m. Contact Randy Vogt for more information.
- c. AAAWD will be holding a press conference on October 5th at City Hall. All are encouraged to attend to support equal access for people with disabilities. AAAWD will be holding the exhibition of the Disability Mural created in Duluth at the DECC on October 19th. Both of these events are meant to acknowledge Disability awareness month. Details will be emailed to Commission members.
- d. Commission members requested that Bob check into a different meeting space.
 - i. The meeting room was switched several months ago and it is not working due to poor acoustics. Members report not being able to hear each other and follow the meeting.

- e. Lars Kuehnow inquired about participating in the 2011 St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference. We will discuss next meeting if we want to participate next year and generate possible topics to present.

Motion to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. was made by Durbin Keeney with Lars Kuehnow seconding.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge

SJ:jm