

Minutes for City of Duluth Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
November 2, 2011

Present:

Roberta Cich	Patti Nadeau
Erica Erickson	Beverly Strongitharm
Lindsey Harkreader	Karin Swor
Sara Junge	Glenn Tridgell
Lars Kuehnow	Randall Vogt
Francis McGee	Bob Grytdahl - Staff

Excused:
Melissa Booth

Absent:

Clara Borrell	Tony Rubin
Debra Burmeister	
Durbin Keeney	

Also present: Gerald Salveson.

1. *Motion to approve August, September, and October minutes as written by Glenn Tridgell. Second by Bev Strongitharm. All Approved.*
2. Approved November agenda as written
3. Discussed openings on the Commission. Mayor/City Council looking to only approve new nominations once per year, in the spring
4. Election of Vice Chair: Erica Erickson was the only nominee. *Lindsey Harkreader made motion to appoint Erica Erickson as Vice Chair. Karin Swor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*
5. Election committee discussed possibility of keeping current Executive Committee members for the next year if no one else is nominated or shows interest. Election Committee will not meet again this year for nominating process and recommends keeping Executive Committee Members in place for another year, since all members remain interested and unopposed. Nominations will be open in November and December. Vote to take place in January.
6. Discussed amending by-laws to change elections to January permanently. Will put this on the December agenda (amending by-laws). Vote to take place on this in January.
7. Signage requests: We received three requests for parking signs/spaces. Reviewed the

process and assigned the requests to Commissioners. Commissioners to bring their report back to the Commission next meeting for discussion and to be put to a vote. Erica Erickson is going to check out two of the requests. Fran McGee will look into the other.

8. Parks and Recreation – New representative needed. Erica Erickson, Lindsey Harkreader, and Karin Swor all expressed an interest but the Parks Commission wants one rep who will have voting privileges. *Karin Swor made a motion to approve Erica Erickson as the new Parks and Recreation representative. Lars Kuehnow seconded. Motion carried unanimously.* We encouraged all interested members to attend. Bob noted that anyone can subscribe to receive any city board agenda and minutes by going to the city website.

Lindsey to craft a follow-up letter to the Parks Commission regarding accessibility of the baby swings at Playfront Park.

9. Accessible tourism group is open to additional members to participate in their planning sessions. Contact Randy if interested. He shared they are going to approach the city region by region to develop a template for implementing their objectives. They will start with Canal Park.
10. Denfeld Auditorium – Bev Strongitharm shared the report from their tour of the Denfeld auditorium. They shared a map of the alterations. Some seats have been removed and level locations have been made accessible.
11. Advocacy updates -- Lindsey Harkreader reported that the DECC has removed the back row seats from all three sections to make room for accessible seating. She will follow up with Dan Russell at the DECC about further improvements.

Roberta Cich reported that the new pizza restaurant in Canal Park has a back door that is accessible, but that the front door is not. Karin Swor reported that Morgan Park recently was resurfaced with curb cuts and that it is very nice.

12. Announcement -- Friday, 11/11/11, is Veterans' Day. Posters were handed out to Commission members. A March will take place from the Depot to the DECC on Friday from 10-11am, followed by a service at the DECC. All events free and open to the public.

Adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge

SJ:jm