

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday November 4, 2009

Commissioners present: Melissa Booth, Clara Borrell, Roberta Cich, Claire Jasper, Sara Junge, Francis McGee, Patti Nadeau, Tony Rubin, Beverly Strongitharm, Glenn Tridgell, Bob Grytdahl (staff).

Excused: Durbin Keeney, Debra Burmeister

Guest: Sara Romagnoli from the WorkForce Center

1. Agenda Approval/Review of Minutes
 - Correction to September 30 minutes; PWDC to read PDC.
Glenn moved to accept the minutes with the correction; Bev second.
 - Item added to today's agenda; discuss how to welcome new city councilors on behalf of commission.
Bev moved to add this item to the agenda; Glenn second.
3. No signage requests today.
4. Public Comment/Announcements: Melissa announced the Believe in Abilities Brunch, Tuesday December 1st, 10:45 to 11:45 at the Radisson. This is a free event and also a fundraiser. Find out about ARC's programs and the crucial work that ARC Northland is doing in our community. Sign-up by November 17th by calling Melissa at 590-2079.
5. Correspondence
 - Please register to hear Robin Jones, Project Director and Instructor from the DBTAC Great Lakes ADA Center, Chicago, give an interactive workshop on transportation issues and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. November 13, 2009 from 12:30-3:30 PM St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1710 East Superior Street, Duluth, MN.
 - From the MN Brain Injury Association:

Please join us at our next Citizen Advocate Academy at Tender Loving Care in Duluth. The Citizen Advocate Academy is a series of trainings and events to help individuals become successful advocates. The Duluth Citizen Advocate event will start with a brief training on how to turn your story into an effective political message followed by a networking dialogue regarding ideas for working together into the future.

Citizen Advocate Academy
Monday November 16, 6-8pm
Tender Loving Care of Duluth, Inc. - Activity Center
316 North Central Avenue – Duluth

If you can't make it to the Citizen Advocate Academy, the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota and Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities invite you to attend a Disability Matters Town Hall Forum. You will learn how recent legislative changes will impact key programs and services utilized by the disability community, gain valuable advocacy tools and speak to your legislators about the challenges and successes living with brain injury.

**Disability Matters Town Hall Forum
Tuesday November 17, 1-3pm
Residential Services of NE MN
1309 Rice Lake Road – Duluth**

- Email from concerned citizen Shane Lueck regarding wheelchair accessible cabs in the city. Asking for assist from the commission (second request).
 - A correspondence log was proposed by Bob and template shown to track requests and follow-up by commissioners.
6. Parks and Recreation Report
- From Patti: The Master Plan is in process and a report is expected January or February. Surveys will be mailed out and available to citizens online. An email was sent out as an attachment from Nick Lansing and will be sent again. Encourage everyone to attend the community meetings.
 - Discussed the Park Point Community Club's success in creating recreational programming. They will be sharing their story so that other community clubs may replicate their efforts.
 - What is WOT's involvement with recreation and parks master planning? Discussed advocating for universal accessibility issues at community meetings.
7. St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference and Presentation:
- Clara, Fran, and Glenn stated they have not received any formal feedback evaluations from the presentation and conference.
 - Feedback on the presentation: We had six (6) people attend. Community feedback has been positive. Not enough time as planned was allowed for Q & A. Fran attended other events at the conference and had someone express interest in becoming a commissioner. Have had some requests for more public informational events.
 - Discussion followed on how best to approach future commission educational events, presentations, etc.
 - *Patti Nadeau made a motion that Commissioners adopt to elect two key directors to build a team for future presentations and Glenn Tridgell*

seconded. Discussion followed as to whether presentations such as the HHS are the best use of the commission's time and efforts. Vote was called to adopt this motion. Vote was 5 yes and 5 no. The chair expressed a no vote and the *motion was denied.*

- *Tony Rubin made a motion that we have a booth only at the 2010 SLC Health and Human Services Conference and that we do not make a presentation. Bev Strongitharm seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed.*

8. New Ideas

- Introduction letter from the Commission to new city councilors starting in January. May be more appropriate to submit the welcome letter in February. Claire proposed sending it during April meeting as there may be new commissioners present. **Roberta volunteered to incorporate information from the recent presentation into and letter and Tony volunteered to help edit. Will bring a rough draft to our December meeting.**
- Accessible Cab: Have received another email on the issue from Shane Lueck. Does this service exist with a private cab company in the city? Discussed what is out there which primarily is medical transportation and public transit. Ideas to explore:
 - A. Is the service wheelchair accessible?
 - B. What is the cost/rate?
 - C. Availability
 - D. Hours of operation**Fran and Clara volunteered to look into pilot project information and research what is available in the city.**
Sara will email Shane with our follow-up.
Claire proposed working with PDC to survey interest in the community for this type of service.
- Sara R. from the WorkForce Center proposed developing a training/presentation to educate the community on universal design. Discussed maybe having a lunch and learn, partner with PDC. Bob and **Roberta volunteered to send her what information they currently have. Bob volunteered to start a discussion with Terry Groshog on the topic.**
- Next session agenda item: Commission strategic planning for 2010.

Respectfully submitted

Sara Junge, Secretary