

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
November 7, 2012

Corrected Copy

Melissa Booth	P	Amber Madoll	P
Clara Borrell	A	Francis McGee	E
Roberta Cich	E	Beverly Strongitharm	P
Erica Erickson	P	Karin Swor	P
Sister Mary Carla Flood	P	Randall Vogt	P
Derek Uttley	P	Sara Junge	P
Gerald Salveson	P	Ray Kleveter	E
Lars Kuehnow	A	Bob Grytdahl-Staff	P

Roll Call

1. Approval of October Minutes/Current Agenda

Approved as written.

2. Call for Nominations

Erica Erickson for Chair

Amber Madoll for Vice Chair

Melissa Booth for Secretary

Contact Sara Junge if interested in being nominated for any of the above positions.

3. Signage Requests

- a. Patrick Rix – 1536 N. 8th Ave. E. – Erica Erickson met with the resident and recommended approval. *Amber Madoll motioned to approve the recommendation. Sister Mary Carla seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion about accessible parking followed led by Bob Grytdahl. Regarding the Commission's role in making recommendations: the Commission is here as a resource to the Parking Commission from the perspective of people with disabilities. If an accessible spot is under question, or may need to be removed, the traffic committee should decide if they need to remove a sign using their judgment and the information available to them.

In addition, the issue of how to handle accessibility complaints within the City is ongoing. Does someone in the City of Duluth have the responsibility to enforce the Minnesota State Accessibility Code? According to the Minnesota State Accessibility Code, Chapter 134, "The building official will enforce the code." We need to know the City's response towards enforcing the code. If the city doesn't enforce the code, what is the next step? Bob emailed the MN Council on Disabilities and the MN Department of Labor and Hours for resources. If no one enforces the code, the next step may be to go to the Department of Justice and file an ADA complaint.

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We'll wait to hear a response back from Margo at the MN Disability Council before making further recommendations.

4. Action and Advocacy Reports

- a. Health and Human Service Conference recap: There was lots of traffic at the table. The presentation room we were assigned did not have a good location and there was not much attendance. Amber Madoll made a power point, got some contacts, and said it was worth the time. Now is the time to start thinking about next year. Erica Erickson suggested the Minnesota State Accessibility Code as a potential topic.
- b. Taxi Task Force -- Amber reported that the group met this morning. The surveys are done and are going to aging and disability organizations, HRA (Housing Redevelopment Authority), and one other area. The surveys will be distributed via Survey Monkey. The group plans to talk with taxi services in the cities area for best practices, and then talk to local taxi companies. They plan to use the surveys to write a report on the results and ask the City Council for a formal task force.
- c. Parks and Recreation – Erica Erickson provided an update on Parks and Rec: The Lester Park playground is delayed until spring due to the weather. They are looking at security cameras for increasing vandalism in the parks. \$60,000 a year is spent on covering graffiti in parks, and that number doesn't include vandalism in bathrooms. They are also looking at upgrades to lower Chester Bowl, including accessibility.
- d. Bus Pass follow-up – Erica reports there seems to be some internal confusion or miscommunication regarding funding for bus passes. Some case managers are saying funding has been cut for bus passes, while higher levels of employees report that funding hasn't been cut.

Sister Mary Carla talked to Rod F., the DTA (Duluth Transit Authority) Director of Operations about more standard bus schedule changes. Rod said they try to align with the schools, and put changes on their website and television. He will bring up the issue at their next staff meeting, how they can do a better job of notifying riders of changes in bus schedules.

5. Public Comment - None.

6. Other Business – None.

7. Announcements – Karin reported that on November 11th, Veteran's Day, there will be a march from the Depot to the DECC. Marchers need to be at the DECC at 11:15 a.m. There will be seven WWII vehicles on hand to help transport veterans who might need a "lift" during the march.

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There will be another honor flight planned, thanks to a generous donation received. Details will be on the news tonight

Derek reported that a similar donation was received by MACV for transitional housing for female veterans who are disabled.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Booth
Secretary

MB;jm