

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Commission on Disabilities
Wednesday
October 2nd, 2019
3:00 pm Room 303 City Hall

Amanda Crosby P
Amy Burke P
Michelle McDonald E
Beverly Richardson P

Tom Furman P
Roberta Cich P
Meghan Terella P
Laurie Berner P

Dianne Naus P
Jessica Cook

Also present:
Mark Bauer
Carl Crawford
Samantha Smingler
Will Yager
Sean Kiecksee
Robert Ho
Sam Schmidt
Joe Pascale
John O'Neill

Welcome, Roll Call, and Meeting opening at 3:10 pm

1. Approval of Agenda MSC (Burke, Berner)

2. Approval of June 2019 (Furman, Richardson) and August 2019 Meeting Minutes MSC (Berner, Furman): Pending August meeting minutes modifications – Commissioner Furman was absent without notice; Commissioner Berner was present; Commissioner Roscoe was present; Vice Chair Burke headed meeting. September 2019 Minutes to be approved at November 2019 meeting.

3. **Public Comment/Information:** Chair Cich provided guests with a general overview of the Commission. Commission members and guests provided introductions.

4. Accessible Parking Update:

(In an effort to expedite official minutes, only a total number of zones will be included.

Addresses of approved ADA Zones are public record and can be accessed electronically.)

Mr. Bauer reported the Parking Commission approved: 2 applications – September 6th, May 3rd meeting will include 3 site visits to be reported by Mr. Bauer to the Parking Commission.

Ordean Building Accessible Parking:

Mr. Bauer shared that an ADA stall has been approved on the 400 block and that engineering is delving into a ramp structure. Commissioner Berner thanked Mr. Carl Crawford for his efforts. More info to follow.

5. Parks and Rec: Commissioner Crosby shared that the Causeway will remain as is; the Western Waterfront project will be moving forward with the rail and trail option, which is to be voted on the 2nd week of September; work on the Campus Connector Trail project continues.

6. Old Business:

“What Up to Code Means to You” hosted by the Duluth Chamber of Commerce at the NorShor – Commissioner Crosby attended and reported a brief portion of the presentation was on accessibility. Mr. Crawford stated that the group is primarily for contractors interested

in making new space Downtown, that there will possibly be an additional meeting, and that it was an opportunity to begin conversation. Chair Cich proposed that the next meeting include universal design and accessibility in an effort to be proactive. Mr. Crawford requested a letter be provided to the group highlighting how pressing the issue is in our community and invite them to work together.

- **MS/C** Vice Chair Burke moved to write a letter to the City and to the Chamber of Commerce about the need to stress accessibility and the importance of it. Commissioner Crosby seconded. Chair Cich offered to write said letter. Commissioner Berner agreed to proofread it.

Meeting with Human Rights Commissioner Lucero – (Attended by Commissioners: McDonald, Cich, Berner, Naus, Terella and Crawford) Commission members reported that the meeting included diverse conversation about the City of Duluth and Human Rights. Commissioner Berner stated she would like Commissioner Lucero to return in order to continue the conversation. Mr. Crawford said that the City and State Human Rights Departments will be making an effort to work together more frequently. Commissioner Lucero’s “dignity and joy for all” mission was shared.

7. New Business:

January 1st Commission on Disabilities Meeting Date Change – Chair Cich suggested the meeting be moved to January 8th, 2020 which will be the Annual Meeting.

- Commissioner Berner moved, Commissioner Dianne seconded a motion to move the Annual meeting to January 8th (**MS/C**). Mr. Crawford noted the date needs to be changed on the website and the rotunda.

8. Current Disability Issues:

Snow Removal Task Force – Chair Cich mentioned the news conference to be held at City Hall on October 3rd. Chair Cich also stated that the registration period for the pilot will remain open for 2 weeks. Commissioner Crosby noted that Chair Cich worked with 211 and they have agreed to assist with filling out the snow removal application online.

NorShor and accessibility – Mr. Crawford informed the Commission that the complaints about accessibility at the NorShor are being addressed and noted that the main area of concern is the sunken seating area on 2nd floor.

Winter Village – Chair Cich reminded the Commission of the upcoming event and asked the Commission if an accessibility minded reminder should be issued.

- Vice Chair Burke moved. Commissioner Berner seconded the motion to offer assistance and reiterate the Commission’s willingness to work with Glensheen and to Duluth Loves Local to make the event more accessible. (**MS/C**)

Other Business/Announcements/Public Comment:

Movies in the Park – Guest Smingler stated that assistive hearing devices are not being offered at the event and suggested that a transmitter and receiver device be installed in the park to allow for access to an audio description of the showing. Commissioner Berner noted that the Greater Downtown Council works with AVR to project the movie. Discussion about

current resources and the availability of assistive hearing devices ensued. Guest Smingler also reported that the Zinema is not providing reliable assistive hearing devices. Commissioner Crosby and Commissioner Berner agreed to working on the technical aspects of the issue. Chair Cich agreed to speak with the Greater Downtown Council.

Memory Café - Guest Smingler informed the Commission that Memory Café meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3:00. The event offers hands-on programming, guided exhibit exploration, and a variety of themes for people with early to midset dementia. It is coordinated by Great Lakes Aquarium, Dementia Friendly Duluth, and Age Well Arrowhead. Interested parties are to register with Kim at Age Well Arrowhead.

Tactile Aquarium Tours – Great Lakes Aquarium’s Smingler and Commission guest stated that in partnership with Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss 3 tours on different topics will be offered, starting November 9th.

Scarium at the Aquarium – To be hosted Sunday, October 27th from 10-3, shared Guest Smingler.

9. **Adjourn – MS/C (Naus, Crosby) at 4:07 pm**
Respectfully submitted by: Meghan Terella