

Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2021

This Commission on Disabilities meeting was held by electronic means due to the COVID-19 Emergency.

Commissioners present:, Dianne Naus, Laurie Berner, Roberta Cich,
Amanda Crosby

Commissioners absent:, Meghan Terella, Tom Furman

Also present:, Carl Crawford, Mark Bauer, Laura Laaksonen

Approval of current agenda: MS/C – (Berner/Crosby)

Approval of December minutes: MS/C - (Berner/Naus)

Public Comment/Information: None

Accessible Parking update:

- Mr. Bauer reported that 2 requests for ADA parking spots were approved at the February Parking Commission meeting and 3 ADA parking spot requests will be brought to the next meeting.
- The Essentia parking ramp on East 1st street has had some design alterations and will actually include more ADA parking spots. Mr. Bauer reported that ADA is always at the forefront of the conversation.

Parks and Rec report:

- Commissioner Crosby reported that the Parks and Rec. Commission is only meeting every other month.
- The Waabizheshikana (The Marten Trail)/The Western Waterfront Trail will have some interesting elements that include information about the history and heritage of the area.

Old Business:

- The Commission discussed the difficulties coming up with a slate of Officers with so few members. We decided to have the note taking rotate among members.
 - o Slate of Officers: Chair- Roberta Cich, Vice-Chair – Laurie Berner, Secretary – will remain open.

New Business: None

Current Disability Issues:

- Snow Removal Taskforce has not met. There will be a meeting before our next meeting to discuss how this winter is going and strategies for going forward.
- Mr. Crawford has received questions about any requirements for accessibility for Vacation Rental Properties. Commission members are not aware of any requirements, but discussed the benefit of raising awareness that there is a need and market for this.
- Mr. Crawford reported that individuals who are not able to wear a mask because of their disability are having difficulties getting medical treatment. The Commission discussed reasonable accommodations and modification requirements. Mr. Crawford will follow up.

Other Business

- ADA Anniversary Celebration: Commissioner Cich attended the ADA Celebration planning committee meeting. The committee would like Duluth to host the event this year. The event will be virtual due to uncertainty around COVID-19.
 - o Both Access North (Center for Independent Living) and Arc Northland want to partner.
 - o Would be nice to showcase some accessible outdoor space.
 - o MS/C (Berner/Crosby) To have the Commission on Disabilities host and participate in planning for the 2021 ADA Anniversary Celebration.

Announcements: Mr. Crawford discussed an increase in phone scams that have been reported recently. Commissioner Naus will send information on the 'Slam the Scam' initiative which helps to warn the public about phone scams.

Adjourn: 4:00 MS/C (Berner/Crosby)