

City of Duluth
Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Meeting start time: 3:10 p.m.

Present: Melissa Booth, Clara Borrell, Fran McGee, Sara Junge, Patti Nadeau, Tony Rubin, Cindy Stratioti, Beverly Strongitharm, Karin Swor, Glenn Tridgell, Randall Vogt and Bob Grytdahl.

Guests: Sarah Romagnoli and Dwight Morrison.

1. Agenda Approval and Review of Minutes

Commissioners moved to add the additional three items to the agenda:

- Sarah R. to speak during Public Comment
- Fran to add an item to Other Business re: taxi issue
- Clara to add an item re: transportation at end of action reports

Glenn made a motion to approve the revised agenda and minutes from April. Patti seconded. Motion approved.

Check with Bob to make sure he is using the most current email address list. Some commissioners have not received agenda and minutes beforehand via email.

2. Signage Request – Rene Howell, 823 E. 10th St.

Fran volunteered to investigate. Discussion followed regarding the city field review, comments known about the area, appropriate questions to ask the resident, and how to form a recommendation.

3. Public Comment – Sarah R. with the Workforce Center brain stormed how she can be a resource to the commission and identified some issues she has contact with:

- Skywalk accessibility to the Workforce Center
- Employment accommodations for person's with disability
- State resources such as the State Council on Disability

Sarah is interested in linking her office's efforts with the Commission's Mission Statement. She then gave some example advice about work place accommodations when looking for a job.

4. Correspondence

- a. From the Parks and Rec Annual Meeting – Tony read a letter from resident Sarah Chambers. She has some concerns about accessible restrooms in public parks.

- b. Courage Center – The Courage Center in Minneapolis is now accepting nominations for the annual Jay and Rose Phillips awards. This award recognizes a person with disability who has made an outstanding achievement or contribution.
5. Recognition of Cindy’s service as Commission Secretary. Thanks for all your hard work, Cindy!

Tony moved to accept nominations for the position of Commission Secretary.

Karin nominated Sara Junge
Cindy nominated Patti Nadeau

A vote was taken, and commissions all voted in favor to appoint Sara Junge.

Tony made a motion to approve Sara as the next Commission Secretary; seconded by Glenn. Motion approved.

6. Parks and Recreation Report
- a. From the annual meeting April 15. A motion was made to support Duluth Healthy Loop Trails. There was also discussion about accessible public toilets, including port-a-potties. *A motion was made by Patti, but then rescinded, for the commission to adopt the same endorsement of Duluth Healthy Loop Trails.* Commission decided to wait to adopt the same language used from the Park Board meeting minutes.
7. Work Group Action Reports
- a. Health and Human Services Conference – Clara shared the outline for the proposed presentation titled “Community Solutions to Community Challenges”. Fran asked for a list of accomplishments the commission has been a part of, help from other members to speak at the presentation, and to help with time at a booth.
Cindy suggested Fran contact Julie or Roberta for a list of the Commission’s accomplishments. Discussion followed regarding collaborating with other community groups in the presentation.
 - b. Parking Ordinance – **Roberta was to contact Steve Goman on this issue but was not present to report any progress.**
 - c. Outreach – The group received word from the City Attorney’s Office that creating a Commission page on Facebook is not allowed. They have asked the group to work with the city’s MIS department in creating a web page thru the city’s website.
 - d. Emergency Preparedness – Sara shared email from John Strongitharm.

Clara shared an incident she encountered with Freedom Transportation regarding weight limits and van lifts. Discussion followed how best to address the incident. Commissioners suggested writing a letter and mentioning the Commission’s name and perhaps copying the mayor’s office.

8. Work group action requests for consent agenda:

- Approval of Health and Human Services Conference outline and title for submission “Community Solutions to Community Challenges”.
- Acquire resolution language from Parks and Rec minutes and adopt same endorsement for Duluth Healthy Loop Trails.
- Parking Ordinance – get report next month from Roberta and Cindy.
- Outreach – **Tony to contact City of Duluth MIS about further development of Commission website.**
- Follow-up with correspondence from Sarah Chambers. **Roberta may be more familiar with the ADA language regarding accessibility of public restrooms.**

Tony moved to approve the consent agenda. Cindy seconded. Consent agenda approved.

9. Other Business

- a. J&B Shuttle. Fran notes they are interested in expanding to include more w/c transportation. How can we help? Can we include this in the follow-up from Shane Lueck?

Motion to adjourn made by Glenn. Second by Bev. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Junge
Secretary