



Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 1, 2024
City Hall Room 430

Commissioners: *indicate present (P) or absent (A)*

Ashlie Castaldo, Chair - P
Brooke Marinan, Vice Chair - P
Christina Johnson, Secretary - P
Allison Fochs - A
Jill Isola Johnson - P
Michelle McDonald - P
Amanda Paszak - P

Also present:

Mark Bauer, Duluth Police Department
Laura Laaksonen, City of Duluth
Andy Paszak, Guest
Jon Rix, Guest

Chair Castaldo called the **5/1/24** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of May 2024 agenda (McDonald, Marinan)

Approval of the April 2024 minutes (Marinan, Paszak)

Welcome New Members

Ice breaker why we joined the Commission on Disabilities.

Current Disability Issues and Announcements

Recap of Library Event 4/27 - Tabled by Chair Castaldo and Commissioner Fochs. Great conversation, feedback and questions. Caregivers seeking activities for children with disabilities; new residents seeking resources. Good connecting events with other disability service providers, legal services. Consider: PDF of disability resources to have available to the public.

Accessible Parking Update

- 1711 E 6th Street - approved by Parking Commission in April
- To discuss at upcoming Parking Commission meeting:
 - 517 N 58th Ave W. no usable off-street parking; recommended for approval
 - Heirloom Properties Brewery Creek Apartments accessible zone for tenants street parking, in addition to parking lot; recommended for approval
 - 319 S 19th Ave E. no off-street parking; recommended for approval
 - 625 N 11th Ave E. garage in back with vehicle, need accessible space for STRIDE and Northern Access service vehicles; recommended for approval

Parks and Rec Report

Chair Castaldo spoke with Parks and Rec - the Charter allows us to nominate an individual in the community to represent us with our approval, in the case where a commissioner is unable to serve on the Parks Commission. That individual would need approval from COD. Commissioner Jill Johnson with ADA background considering the opportunity. Commissioner Paszak - can the liaison be filled with two individuals taking turns at P&R meetings? Laura to ask City.

Annual Goals - Updates

Update on Human Rights Commission meeting May 8 with Superintendent Magas. Chair Castaldo unable to attend. Will forward a statement to Mr. Magas on behalf of the Commission on Disabilities. Presentation to focus on suspension rates of African American students; will see what the data shows, questions may arise. 5:30pm meeting. Vice Chair Marinan try to attend. Laura Laaksonen will attend.

New Business

- MN Department of Human Services resource fair for HOH individuals Feb '25. Goal is to host 3 resource fairs across Minnesota connecting public services such as law enforcement, ambulance, fire services and how to communicate with HOH individuals. Showcase protocol for effective communication and hear from HOH individuals what they might need from services.
 - Group to provide COD with brochures to distribute.
 - Suggestions for location: Clyde, Depot, Heritage Events Center, Aquarium, Holiday Inn, UMD, City Community Centers, Denfeld
 - Chair Castaldo is helping connect to DPD and DFD; requested Laura help connect this group with the Mayor.
 - Additional connections: DPD, DFD, DTA, Mayo - Vice Chair Marinan and Commissioner Paszak to help connect. Chair Castaldo to share event details with group to help.
- Zoom with US Dept of Justice June 3 - Discussion with civil rights division, attorney will present what they do to enforce Human Rights Act and how to refer individuals to their office for help. Open for Q&A. Meeting will be open to the public.

Old Business

EAT Disability Walk - small funds available remaining from MinneSNOWta Nice campaign. Once amount and availability of those funds are determined we will consider as a Commission how to use them. Suggested fidgets for tabling events.

Public Comment

Lighthouse student attended Self-Advocate Leadership event, positive experience.

Adjourn (Paszak, C.Johnson)

Meeting adjourned at 4:18pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

3:30pm - 4:30pm

City Hall Room 430