



Commission on Disabilities  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
***June 7, 2023***

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

Laurie Berner - P  
Ashlie Castaldo - P  
Roberta Cich – A  
Amanda Crosby - P  
Allison Fochs - A  
Tom Furman -A  
Dianne Naus - A  
Samantha Smingler – P  
Brooke Marinan - P

**Also present:**

Chris Johnson (newly recruited commissioner waiting to be sworn in),  
Carl Crawford (Human Rights Officer for City of Duluth)  
Officer Mark Bauer (Duluth Parking Commission Report)

Chris Jonhson from the Chamber just received approval from the

Chair Crosby called the June 7, 2023 Commission on Disabilities meeting  
to order at **3:30pm**, there was a quorum.

**Approval of current agenda:** 1st - Commissioner Berner, 2nd  
Commissioner Castaldo

**Approval of the May minutes:** 1st - Commissioner Berner, 2nd Commissioner Castaldo

**Public Comment/Information:**

- New mural in front of ACHIO that recognizes the 2 spirit community

**Guest speakers or presentations:**

N/A

**Accessible Parking Update:**

- 8 new applications
- Quorum issue again last friday with the parking commission, 3rd mtg in a row -so will be moving ahead with instillations and retro-approvals from the parking commission
- West Superior St location - new gym being built, request came from a city engineer
- West 4th Street location- Officer Bauer visited and saw parking available, but it belongs to the neighbor. The ally belongs to the neighbor - recommended for approval
- North 60th Ave W location- access issue is steps from the garage to the house. Recommended for approval
- Elnore St location - no parking on the parcel, so moved for approval.
- 4 more that came in today:
  - Will be brought back to the committee
  - One challenge in areas with limited parking- since we have a driveway ordinance in Duluth that requires a distance of 7 feet from a driveway to any parking stall, in order to have clear sight lines for cars coming out of the driveway, but also for someone turning into the driveway to see pedestrians on the sidewalk.
  - 87 Ave West - multiple needs, need more information.
  - North 63rd Ave West - reports falls walking from the garage that have resulted in ER visits.
  - Request for a mirrored zone - will be installed, commission approval not required since prior approval already given for first stall.

How do folks find out about ADA parking requests?

- someone from the city will forward to Carl Crawford or Officer Mark Bauer. Business development team for new builds to get them thinking about parking. Often from getting a citizen receiving a parking ticket, this leads to a conversation about an accessibility need (nearly 25% of the

time). Ongoing need when multiple people are using the spot and city get's calls that says 'someone is in 'my spot' - since ADA stalls do not belong to a single person, it can lead to a conversation about an additional spot being needed.

What is the equation for needed ADA stalls with senior living.- There is more guidance when accessible apartments are on the property.

History - Commission on Disability used to give out ADA parking stalls, so it's now much improved to have a police department involved.

### **Parks and Rec Report:**

- History that the Park and Rec commission needed a voice of disability advocacy. Chair Crosby has been serving in this role.
- Next week, there will be a vote on the Lakewalk interpretation plan. Public comment period is over. On the city's website under parks planning.
- Hillside sport court (of 7th street) is going to be redone. Thursday, June 15 the public comment will start for that.
- Event and accessible parking conversation already involving Officer Bauwer
- Equipment at Lincoln Park: not yet installed, closed this summer for construction. Will be adding an ADA bathroom. Important with the move toward walkability of the community.

### **Old Business:**

Planning a Commission Retreat:

- looking at a time frame of noon to 2pm, brown bag lunch for the September Commission Retreat
- no update to the open meeting law from the state, so remote participation is still not permitted.

Feedback from ISD709:

- Commissioner Castaldo will be meeting with the Superintendent this summer. Officer Bauer, Commissioner Berner, and Arc Northland all interested in supporting this conversation.
- Mr. Crawford would like to see training for school staff as a result of this meeting. Commissioner Castaldo will build a relationship so that we can help create a plan for next school year.

### Snow Removal Task Force:

- Task force has been doing great work on making the case for WHY, transportation access is more than just streets
- We know this is years of system change
- Chair Crosby has offered to make a to-do list and create ad-hoc groups working in specific areas where we can use connections to make change
- Chair Crosby plans to bring the snow removal plans to the commission to ensure this is going in the right direction and what we can do now. I.e. positive education and storytelling, recognizing business doing a good job, working with Sammies Pizza again to recognize volunteer shovelers.
- Exciting to have many strong community voices.
- Commissioner Berner - education piece to City Counselors and County Commissioners, MN DOT - start with a couple and then work towards the whole. To bring a broader understanding and need of shifting priorities.
- BPAC - Bike Pedestrian Action Committee, and MIC Metropolitan Interagency Committee were at the last meeting.
- Fire Chief Krozaj shared that budget conversations are happening now.

### New Business:

- Minnesota Inclusion Grant - Chair Crosby had applied for funds to support the Snow Removal Task Force. \$5,000 to have the snow removal task force work with the city, Commission and others to build an educational campaign around snow removal and clear sidewalks.  
**\*\*Find the application**

Snag - The city cannot accept funds from another government agency - so we will need to approach another non-profit to be the financial agency

- \*Question - how are we doing with number of commissioners and how is Commissioner Fochs doing - we haven't seen her recently?  
-Commissioner Fochs has had conflict of work schedule.
- Mr Crawford shares: DTA is changing its routes. As a commission we will still need to be looking at the blueprint to see what communities will be most impacting. 50% reduction in bus stops is planned.

- Evening transportation is a concern. Most evening events start at 8 or 9pm. And there is no bussing. Uber and Lyft have no motivation to have accessible vehicles. No rules that require a percentage of ADA vehicles. So a large population of people are missing out on evening community events.
- City has a goal to increase our workforce. And folks want a place to work and play. Not being able to get to events is a barrier. Recent frustrating example of a UMD graduate -wheelchair user in their 20s has to live in a nursing home because there is no accessible affordable housing.
- Commissioner Berner - Peace Church is working with Lutheran Social Services - the church has an annex that used to be daycare before the pandemic. Being converted to 'stepping up' housing program moving unhoused folks into housing. Still work being done to educate Church
- Mental Health awareness and education - especially in the unhoused community. Miller-Dwan, LSL, work with mental health. Public Library trespassing citation means that folks are barred from their only resources - computers. Need another bridge house.
  - More fear with heightened concerns with violence
  - Grow empathy
  - Build relationships to increase ability to de-escalate a situation
  - Mr Crawford has given the library a set of passes, so when someone is given a trespassing notice, they get a pass to come see Carl to problem solve other solutions.
  - It feels awful to lose control - man of color in our community with challenges with authority and hearing loss. Making sure Mom is connected with the police so they know this specific youth.

**Other Business:**

N/A

**Announcements:**

Arc is moving from the Ordean Building into the Zeitgeist building, by July! Ordean will become apartments - owned by Titanium.

**Adjourn: 4:35pm - Chair Crosby**

**Next meeting *August 2, 2023 3:30 PM*  
City Hall Room 330**