



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes - Final

Commission on Disability Issues

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

4:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99. Online at a2gov.org/watchCTN.

To speak at public comment call Toll Free: 877 853 5247 or 888 788 0099

Enter Meeting ID: 919 8673 1455

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Z. Damon called the electronic meeting of the Commission on Disability Issues to order at 4:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

All Commissioner participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Present 8 - Larry Keeler, Zachary Damon, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, Rosanita Ratcliff, Robert Packard, and Elena Chambers

Absent 3 - Rachel Hawkins, Debra Poster, and Alex Gossage

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No public comment was brought before the commission

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Council Update was moved at the beginning of the Special Presentation section of the agenda.

A motion was made by Mozak, seconded by Keeler, that the Agenda be Approved with changes. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[23-1673](#) Commission on Disability Issues Minutes - September 20, 2023

A motion was made by Ratcliff, seconded by Damon, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 10/30/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

New Commission Candidate Introduction

Chair Damon introduced the commission candidate to the commission. Chair Damon reported that the candidate application has been reviewed and the candidate has been interviewed by Vice Chair Larry Keeler. The candidate provided the commission with a brief introduction of themselves and their background on disability issues.

[23-1674](#) New Commission Candidate Introduction

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - AYESHA GHAZI EDWIN

Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin shared that she attended an event at the Disability Networks of Livingston discussing the need for more accessible affordable housing in the City. Further conversation and discussion will be held with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission and City staff. Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin reported that at the last City Council meeting residents brought up concerns regarding sidewalk gaps and accessibility. The director of public works has offered to have someone from City transportation attend the next Commission meeting. Commissioners will be able to address their concerns, ask questions, and provide feedback on the sidewalk gap issue.

Present 7 - Larry Keeler, Zachary Damon, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Rosanita Ratcliff, Robert Packard, and Elena Chambers

Absent 4 - Rachel Hawkins, Debra Poster, Alex Gossage, and Ayesha Ghazi Edwin

[23-1719](#) Sidewalk Gap - Accessibility Issue

WASHTENAW LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED - JACKIE BEST

For information on the events that are taking place at the Library, please visit their website at <http://wlbpd.aadl.org/>

DISABILITY NETWORK (Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston) - ANDREA HENRY

For information on the events that are taking place with the Disability Network, please visit their website at <http://DNWML.org>

PARTNERS IN ACCESS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT//RECRUITING ACTIVITY - ALEX GOSSAGE, RACHEL HAWKINS AND LARRY KEELER

Partners in Access: Chair Damon reported that Commissioner Gossage, the chairman of the partners in access subcommittee will no longer be able to chair the committee. Chair Damon shared that the subcommittee will need a new chairman and if any commissioner is interested in becoming the chairman of the subcommittee to please let him know. Vice Chair Larry Keeler offered to step in to the role of chairman of the subcommittee. Vice Chair Larry Keeler will temporarily be the chairman of the Partners in Access subcommittee until a new chairman takes over the role permanently.

Community Engagement/Ann Arbor Inclusive: Commissioner Hawkins was not present to provide an update.

Recruiting: Vice-Chair Keeler reported that recruiting for the Commission has been very active. The Commission has received a new commission application and recruitment is reviewing the candidate application. The Commission currently has 2 vacancies to fill.

Anyone who is interested in applying can do so by contacting the Mayor's office at 734-794-6161, or applying online at <https://a2gov.granicus.com/boards/w/fe6c5e22e6f4a331/vacancies> This site can also be accessed online via the following path:

- 1. Go to a2gov.org*
- 2. Click "Democracy" in the orange banner at the top of the page*
- 3. Click "Board and Commissions" under the Meetings column.*
- 4. Scroll down to and click "Commission on Disability Issues" from the alphabetically sorted list.*
- 5. Click the "Apply" button at the upper-right corner of the page.*
- 6. Complete the application, including all required fields, and then click "Submit" at the button of the page.*

Interested persons may also reach out if they may be interested in serving on subcommittees such as Partners in Access and Community Engagement.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION UPDATE - LARRY KEELER

Vice-Chair Keeler reported that the City is currently still working on different construction projects. The Transportation Commission is also working on making safe crossings at 23 and Washtenaw. Vice-Chair Keeler shared that the Transportation Commission had a resolution to review and amend bylaws. The resolution to amend the commission bylaws was passed. In addition, the Transportation Commission is also working on speed management and road diets in the City in regards to traffic concerns.

U OF M COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY CONCERNS MEETING UPDATE - MATTHEW SOLOMON

Commissioner Solomon was unable to attend the University of Michigan Council for Disability Concerns meeting to provide an update. The meeting minutes from the University of Michigan Council for Disability Concerns meeting was provided to the commission.

[23-1726](#) CfDC October Meeting Minutes

DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - LAURA ORTA

Director of Organizational Equity Laura Orta was not present to provide an update.

CITY PERSONNEL REPORT - KENNEDI CUMMINGS

Kennedi Cummings reported that the City of Ann Arbor is still searching for a Police Chief. Deputy Police Chief Aimee Metzger has accepted a new position at Michigan and will be retiring at the end of October. The new Interim Deputy Police Chief is Patrick Maguire.

CHAIR REPORT - ZACH DAMON

Chair Damon congratulated and welcomed the two new commissioners to the commission. The new commissioners are Rob Packard and Elena Chambers. Chair Damon also welcomed the new City of Ann Arbor

Accessibility Coordinator Tracy Byrd to the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Mozak discussed that the list of resources outlined on the commission website should be updated and changed. Commissioner Mozak discussed that all resources available in the community should be outlined on the commission website. The commission plans to schedule a working session meeting next month to discuss ideas and additional resources that could be outlined on the commission website.

A motion was made by Keeler, seconded by Mozak, that Sonia Schmerl application be approved as a new commissioner on the Commission on Disability Issues. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Ratcliff shared that the Washtenaw County Commission meeting will be addressing concerns regarding the housing crisis in the community and how the county can plan to handle housing crisis in the future. More information and details can be found at <https://www.washtenaw.org/>

ADJOURNMENT

Ratcliff moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Packard. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

All persons are encouraged to participate in public meetings. Citizens requiring translation or sign language services or other reasonable accommodations may contact the City Clerk's office at 734.794.6140; via e-mail to: cityclerk@a2gov.org; or by written request addressed and mailed or delivered to:

**City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
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Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

