

Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues
April 16, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Linda Evans, Alison Stroud, Larry Keeler, Lloyd Shelton,
Amy Shepherd, Sally Petersen, West Resendes

Commissioners Excused: None

Sign Language Interpreter: None

CTN Operator: Robert Hughes

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Evans called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. The Commissioners individually introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Stroud motioned, seconded by Commissioner Resendes, that the agenda be approved as amended by removing III. Presentations, a. Ira Lax – Ann Arbor Public Library. Motion carries.

III. Presentations

a. Lisa Wondrash, the City of Ann Arbor Communications Director, spoke to the Commission about the request for closed captioning for the Disability Commission meetings. She confirmed the Cable Commission supports the request and that Community Television Network can accommodate the costs of this service. Wondrash will establish the implementation plan and work closely with the Commission to promote this new service.

b. Chris White and Michael Benham from the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority updated the Commission on the five year transportation improvement plan. White and Benham explained what the plan entails, discussed funding and operation budgets, economic impacts, and answered questions from the Commission.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Commissioner Keeler motioned, seconded by Vice Chair Stroud to approve the March 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes as amended by changing VI. Old Business, Section e. Partners in Access Committee, Part 3. to include potential questions for Colin Smith. All in favor. Motion carries.

VI. Old Business

- a. City Personnel Report – None
- b. Chair Report
 1. Chairperson Evans commended Commission members for being aware of varying disabilities.
 2. Chairperson Evans welcomed new Commissioner West Resendes.
- c. Recruiting Committee
 1. Chairperson Evans requested that Commissioner Keeler and Commissioner Shepherd coordinate a meeting date for the following Wednesday. Commissioner Shepherd will send out an email.
 2. Chairperson Evans provided contact information for those interested in being on the Commission. They may contact the City Liaison, Amy Seavitt, at (734) 794-6122 or reach out to the Mayor's Office at (734) 794-6161 for an application. Applications are also available online through the City Clerk's website and on the Disability Resources Page.
 3. Chairperson Evans inquired if the blurb about the Commission had been posted on the Washtenaw Intermediate School District listserv. Commissioner Shepherd will update more at meeting.
- d. Hollywood Committee
 1. Chairperson Evans announced two topics to vote on, the Commission's Gmail account and a proposed name change for the Hollywood Committee.
 2. Chairperson Evans discussed using the Google drive account to store notes and possibly use as a direct communication between citizens and the Commission. Discussion ensued. Chairperson Evans motioned to proceed. Vice Chair Stroud moved to approve, Commissioner Shepherd seconded. Six in favor with one abstention.

3. The Commission discussed which Gmail address to use, a) a2disabilityissues@gmail.com or b) a2codi@gmail.com. Commissioner Keeler moved to approve the option b, Vice Chair Stroud seconded. Discussion ensued. All in favor with the option b.
4. Chairperson Evans discussed the name change for the Hollywood Committee and the proposed name of Community Engagement Committee instead. Vice Chair Stroud suggested the name Communications Committee. Commissioner Petersen agreed. Chairperson Evans motioned to change Hollywood Committee to Communications Committee. Commissioner Petersen seconded. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Petersen motioned a friendly amendment to change the name to the Community Outreach Committee. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Shepherd motioned a friendly amendment to change the name to the Community Engagement Committee. All in favor for Community Engagement.

e. Partners in Access Committee

1. Vice Chair Stroud discussed the March 27th meeting regarding the new sidewalk letter and the action plan for the AAATA. They also discussed accessible pedestrian signals.
2. Vice Chair Stroud made a motion to approve the new sidewalk letter to Craig Hupy and Michael Nearing. Commissioner Shepherd approved. All in favor.
3. Vice Chair Stroud also recapped how the Committee discussed next steps for the AAATA action plan. The Committee plans to attend the AAATA public forum.
4. Vice Chair Stroud gave contact information to AAATA by providing the website www.theride.org/customerservice or by calling (734) 973-6500 or the TTY number at (734) 973-6997.
5. Commissioner Shepherd suggested the Committee also email proposed questions that they drafted to Jack Bernard and Sue Gott on the Board regarding disability sensitivity issues.
6. Vice Chair Stroud discussed accessible pedestrian signals and intersections with potential issues. The Committee will explore several intersections, make note of the problems and present them to the City for inspection.

7. Chairperson Evans informed the Commission that she contacted Rochester Hills, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids and is waiting for phone calls back.
 8. Chairperson Evans announced the possible disclaimer for the blind and visually impaired for closed captioning. Greg McDonald at Community Television Network is requesting proposed wording for the disclaimer.
- f. Ad Hoc Committee
1. Chairperson Evans suggested that Commissioner Shepherd and Vice Chair Stroud meet the following week to review the website and forward to Lisa Wondrash.

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Shelton recapped the University of Michigan Council for Disability Concerns meeting minutes where the Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues was referenced. Discussion ensued. Chairperson Evans offered any assistance the Commission could provide to the Council.
- b. Chairperson Evans discussed issuing a letter of support to the AAATA and their steps towards the expansion of bus services. Discussion ensued.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Shelton announced the U of M Students for Disability Allies panel discussion that occurred.
- b. Commissioner Shepherd announced the Birding By Ear and Beyond's Celebrate Urban Birds program at Gallup Park.
- c. Chairperson Evans announced the VISIONS 2014: What's New in Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired Event at Washtenaw Community College in the Morris Lawrence Building.
- d. Commissioner Shelton announced the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living Advocacy Workshop.
- e. Chairperson Evans announced the Restoring the Voice of the People at Mallett's Creek.

- f. Commissioner Resendes performed sign language for the viewing audience due to the lack of sign language interpreter. Chairperson Evans also offered to obtain a transcript of the meeting for those who might request it.
 - g. Commissioner Shepherd announced the Helen Keller Exhibit at the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.
- IX. Adjournment – Chairperson Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Submitted by: Amy Seavitt, HR Coordinator