

Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues
December 19, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Linda Evans, Larry Keeler, Gloria Kolb, Sally Petersen, Ramona Williams, Patti Smith

Commissioners Excused: Ian Scott, Monica Cox

Sign Language Interpreter: Mary Higgins

CTN Operator: Robert Hughes

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Evans called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m. The Commissioners individually introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Petersen motioned, seconded by Commissioner Keeler, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carries.

III. Presentations

- a. Ira Lax from the Ann Arbor Public Library addressed the Commission about large print books that are available and can be delivered free of charge. He also gave contact information for the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. The public can reach out by phone at (734) 327-4224 or visit the website at <http://wlbpd.aadl.org>. The general number for the Ann Arbor Public Library is (734) 327-4200.

IV. Public Comments

- a. Susan Pollay, Executive Director at the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority, spoke to the Commission about the Connecting William Street project that involves five city parcels nearby William Street. She publicly recapped the meetings that had been arranged with the Commission, citing some of the potential issues the parcels could face.

V. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes

Commissioner Smith motioned, seconded by Commissioner Keeler to approve the October 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carries.

VI. Old Business

a. City Personnel Report

1. City Liaison, Amy Seavitt, distributed updated rosters for the Commission.

b. Chair Report

1. Chairperson Evans asked for Thomas Partridge's contact information to follow up with him regarding his public commentary from the previous meeting. She also announced the Non-Motorized Transportation Meeting Plan Review that is available to the public.

c. Recruiting Committee

1. Commissioner Kolb discussed how to obtain an application if anyone is interested in joining the Commission through contacting the Mayor's Office at (734) 794-6161, or through the City Liaison, Amy Seavitt, at (734) 794-6122.

d. Hollywood Committee

1. Sensory Garden Proposal Design – Chairperson Evans discussed the proposed design for the garden that was included in the handout. The handout included the location of the garden, what it will look like, and what types of textures and bright colors the flowers and plants will have. Evans moved a draft to go forward with the process, in which Commissioner Petersen seconded.

2. Letter for Donations to Sensory Garden – Chairperson Evans discussed how the garden is in memory of a previous Commissioner that has passed, and how the family of the Commissioner is enthusiastic about the project. She moved to distribute a letter asking for donations for the garden, which Commissioner Keeler seconded. The Commission will submit revisions by the last Wednesday in December.

e. Partners in Access Committee

1. Curb Cut at Hubbard and Green – Commissioner Smith announced that the curb cuts were finished.

2. Audible Pedestrian Signal (APS) at Broadway and Swift – Commissioner Kolb discussed the letter sent to Patrick Cawley, who took it to his supervisor and reviewed it at the committee meeting. They have now set up a fund so money can be there when instances like this arise. Commissioner Kolb will follow up after the first of the year.
3. Connecting William Street – Commissioner Kolb recapped the meeting that had taken place with Amber Miller from the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority. They discussed providing a park area for younger children to make it more of a friendly feel. She noted that Commissioner Williams had many good suggestions.
4. Stadium Bridge Reconstruction – Chairperson Evans talked about the completion of the pedestrian walkway across Stadium and how there is now a flashing red beacon and audible button that has been installed.

f. Ad Hoc Committee

1. Chairperson Evans discussed the Committee's objective to improve the linkage on the Disabilities Resources website.

VII. New Business

- a. Chairperson Evans proposed coordinating a retreat in January or February to discuss procedural information. The Commission will discuss potential dates in the closed meeting following.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Commissioner Petersen announced that Roger Schard had spoken on December 5th about his family history with blindness. She also spoke about the committees for Investing in Abilities week and the Newbauer Award Committee.

IX. Adjournment – Chairperson Evans adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Submitted by: Amy Seavitt, HR Assistant