

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

3:15 PM

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second floor, City Council
Chambers

Disability Issues, Commission on

I **ROLL CALL**

Present 10 - Larry Keeler, Alison Stroud, Larry Leon Davis, Anna Ercoli-Schnitzer, Sally Hart Petersen, VACANT POSITION 1, Zachary Damon, Kirk Westphal, Albert Blixt, and Rebecca Benedict

II **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Z. Damon motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by R. Benedict. All approved on a voice vote.

III **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19 MEETING MINUTES**

A. Schnitzer motioned to approve the meeting minutes, K. Westphal seconds. All in favor of approving the minutes on a voice vote.

IV **PRESENTATIONS**

a **Ira Lax, Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled**

Ira gave an update on the events for September at the Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. For a complete list of events and new book lists, please visit <http://wlbpd.aadl.org/>.

V **PUBLIC COMMENTS - LIMITED TO 8 MINUTES**

*1. Kathleen Mozac-Betz
Brought a concern to the commission regarding the accessibility of Pioneer High School's ADA door and restroom. She has reached out to many people about this issue for years without solution.*

VI **OLD BUSINESS**

a **City Personnel Report - Heather Koch**

b **Chair Report - Sally Petersen, Chair**

S. Petersen was asked by Heather Koch to discuss the calendar of meetings for the Commission and both sub-committees for calendar year 2017. S. Petersen asked that A. Stroud work on the schedule with the

Partners in Access sub-committee, and she will work with the Community Engagement Committee.

S. Petersen also shared that the Closed Captioning Ordinance did get passed by City Council at first reading on November 10th.

c Community Engagement Committee - Sally Petersen

The next Community Engagement Committee meeting is on November 17 at 6:00 pm in the Council Workroom.

Z. Damon announced that the next episode of Ann Arbor Inclusive will include a interview with Marissa from the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. She will be discussing the museum's events aimed specifically at children with disabilities.

d Partners in Access Committee - Alison Stroud

A. Stroud discussed the Closed Captioning Ordinance. The Partners in Access committee is working on their next steps with getting the ordinance activated. The Partners in Access committee is going to start working on public outreach throughout the City. S. Petersen asked Councilmember Westphal for his advice on the next steps to take in order to start the efforts in public outreach. The Partners in Access committee will move forward with developing/revising current questions for a City Hall Open Survey to gain community feedback on the Closed Captioning Ordinance. S. Petersen suggested that A. Stroud be the point of contact for the questions that will be included on the Survey.

A. Stroud asked that the commission move to have a discussion and approve the questions before the questions are sent to Lisa Wondrash. Z. Damon moved to approve, seconded by A. Schnitzer.

The commission suggested a few small changes to A. Stroud, who will make edits on the survey and move forward with the changed survey. A. Stroud will move forward with sending the survey to Lisa Wondrash when the survey is ready. The answers from the survey will be reviewed at the December commission meeting, with the intent of making changes to the Ordinance at that time if needbe. All in favor of moving forward on a voice vote.

A. Stroud also discussed the current status of the crosswalk safety topic.

e Recruiting Activity - Larry Keeler

There have been no applications to the Disabilities Commission. People who are interested in applying can call the Mayor's office, or email a2disabilities@gmail.com.

VII ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Schnitzer announced that the bus system, Michigan Flyer, is very much improving since she reported on it last. She also mentioned that wheelchair users should indicate that they have a wheelchair when they sign up online to use the bus. The wheelchair accessibility is available, but it is appreciated if you let the company know that you will be bringing it with you.

The last meeting of the U of M Council for Disability Concerns was held for the year, and A. Schnitzer discussed how they are setting up a mechanism to be of value to the U of M Health system for accessibility. There will be a sub-committee of people from the health system and from campus who will be working together to improve accessibility within the health system.

Al Blixt announced that a new program in the State, MiAble, is making it possible for people who receive SSI or SSDI or Medicaid or other benefits that have asset limitations to create a tax free savings account to help pay their expenses. Information can be found at miable.org.

VIII NEW BUSINESS**a U of M Council for Disability Concerns November Meeting Update and Minutes****IX ADJOURNMENT**

S. Petersen adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30.

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.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.