



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, April 19, 2023

4:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and
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 meeting to order at 400 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Larry Keeler, Zachary Damon, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Rachel Hawkins, Debra Poster, Alex Gossage, Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, and Rosanita Ratcliff

Absent 1 - Kinsey Button

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved as presented

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[23-0652](#) CODI March 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mozak, seconded by Poster, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 5/15/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No public comment was brought before the commission.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION**Matt Carpenter, TheRide, CEO**

Matt Carpenter, CEO TheRide introduced himself to the commission and discussed the question, when does TheRide plan to begin offering same day Para transit services on the ARide system at any point in the near future? He explained there is no plan to bring back same day services due to the expense involved. He made a point that he would also like the entire fleet to be wheelchair accessible and inclusive for all. Questions and Answer period followed.

Welcome New Commissioner

Z. Damon introduced our new commissioner Rosanita Radcliff to the commission. R. Radcliff gave a brief description about her background and discussed her interest in becoming involved with the community.

WASHTENAW LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED - KATIE MONKIEWICZ

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

[23-0660](#) April Highlights Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

ANN ARBOR CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING - JOYCE BLAIR

(Disability Network for Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston) 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

L. Keeler discussed amending CODI's bylaws regarding Article 9, Section 3 which involves recruiting. Presently, this section of the bylaws are not well understood and would like to rewrite a more clear recruiting outline process for future commissioners reference R. Hawkins added the recruiting process will be more beneficial if it was more standardized.

Ann Arbor Inclusive; R. Hawkins reported a new show will premier on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., on CTN and their YouTube channel.

Their guest will be the Mind Center of Farmington Hills.

Alex Gossage reported on the Downtown Stakeholder Letter regarding Downtown Public Bathrooms, since Downtown has no public bathrooms the City thinks it has a solution with the Throne an ADA accessible unit. Commissioners will receive a copy of the Downtown Stakeholder letter to review and PIA will discuss at their next meeting. Any suggestions or concerns please email PIA commissioners, A. Gossage, R. Hawkins and L. Keeler. A community member reached out concerning construction on Maple and Scio Church that the sidewalks were not complete or accessible. The PIA will keep up with summer construction and encourage if you notice any irregularities, please bring them to our attention.

L. Keeler reported on our current recruiting status. The commission possibly have two new applicants.

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

L. Keeler provided an update on the Transportation Commission. Last month there were more debates over sidewalks around the Earhart Village. E-Bikes are returning and taken over by Spin. Crosswalk guidelines were developed in 2015, CODI was acknowledged in the development of some of those guidelines. They will tweak them to reflex today's environment. They are still trying to take care of sidewalks gaps in the City that don't have a connection and construction to correct the problem. More bike corrals are going downtown.

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

M. Solomon provided an update on the Council for Disability Concerns. He reminded us if any commissioners are interested in the monthly CfDC meetings held on zoom, please sign-up for the emails to be informed about all the activities. This month's presentation was by Allison Kushner who is the Director of Disability, Equity and ADA Coordinator (note: this title language may be relevant to our upcoming position). Including an introduction from the Equity Civil Rights & Title IX office: Megan Marshall, Deputy ADA Coordinator, Phil Deaton, Digital Information Accessibility Coordinator, Sarah Caruso, Administrative Specialist in ECRT and Stephanie Beatty, ASL Interpreter. University of Michigan is investing in this area, these resources have seen a growth over the last six months.

DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - LAURA ORTA

Laura Orta provided an update on the Accessibility Coordinator Position. The job description is ready to be sent forward to legal. If commissioners have any additional suggestions, comments or concerns, please send them to Lara by Wednesday, April 26, 2023 a copy will be sent to legal by the end of next week. A copy of the Accessibility Coordinator Position Draft will be sent to commissioners. L. Orta wants to ensure that this position has positive outcomes and tie them back to what the individual is doing and how they are making a difference in our community. This way we can monitor to make sure the City is filling the gaps or we need to consider changing the job description or adding to the team. She suggest that commissioners and the community use the City's A2FIXIT app it is an excellent way to communicate with City departments to report problems in the community.

CITY PERSONNEL REPORT - DENISE JEANES

D. Jeanes gave an update on the latest hires and retirement at City Hall.

CHAIR REPORT - ZACH DAMON

Z. Damon gave the chair report. Z. Damon acknowledge the former ICPOC Commissioner, Jude Walton and hope moving forward that others will uphold her standards to the community. He encouraged commissioners to attend "Nothing About Us Without Us" Film Festival has one more day, tomorrow. These films help us understand the advocacy and what is happening on the frontline, adding these films are very informative. Z. Damon reminded commissioners to attend the

Visions 2023 Conference on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 from 11-4 p.m., at the Washtenaw Library to meet and greet while checking out some of the resources available.

OLD BUSINESS

CODI Draft Recruitment Outline Process

L. Keeler discussed the CODI draft recruitment outline process. Proposing to write an amendment to the bylaws; Article 9, Section 3 to provide a clearer understanding of the recruitment process. Applicants would be interviewed by PIA initially, then invited to a full commission meeting (public comment) to ensure complete transparency. And all commissioners will have access to new commissioners applications. R. Hawkins noted our goal was to keep the commission updated, there is nothing definitive at this point. Currently we have a rough outline to review and to process until the commission votes otherwise. PIA will revive the language after your review and present again in May. If you have any questions, please reach out to PIA sub-committee.

[23-0672](#) CODI Draft Recruitment Outline

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation at 2023 Visions Conference

Z. Damon encourage all commissioners to attend the Visions 2023 Conference at the Washtenaw Library, on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. If you have any suggestions on how to make our table better, please reach out to him or Vice Chair Keeler.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

CM A.G.Edwin gave an update on accessibility. Main Street closing for the summer and several adjacent streets. She is working with the DDA to allocate more accessible parking spaces adjacent to the closures. The city has approved three parking spots. Working on integrating accessible paths into our maps online so people with disabilities can plan their trips in advance to ensure accessible routes are available. She will keep the commission updated. To recap on the Downtown bathrooms, she has reached out to City Administrator, Milton Dohoney every Throne bathroom units will be accessible and gender inclusive. The placement

will have to do with infrastructure, electricity and sidewalks. The City Administrator is supportive of CODI being involved in the process.

COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT

Z. Damon adjourned the meeting at 6:01 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
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