



City of Ann Arbor

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Commission on Disability Issues

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

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

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 4:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Larry Keeler, Zachary Damon, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Rachel Hawkins, Alex Gossage, Rosanita Ratcliff, Robert Packard, and Elena Chambers

Absent 2 - Debra Poster, and Ayesha Ghazi Edwin

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No public comment was brought before the commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Keeler, seconded by Mozak, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

23-2135 Commission on Disability Issues Minutes - December 20, 2023

A motion was made by Packard, seconded by Keeler, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 1/22/2024. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

New Commission Candidate Introduction**24-0025** New Commission Candidate Introduction

Chair Damon did an introduction of commission candidate to the entire commission. The candidate application has been reviewed and the candidate was interviewed by Chair Zach Damon and Vice Chair Larry Keeler. The candidate provided the commission with a brief introduction of themselves and their background on disability issues.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION**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/>

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 - LARRY KEELER

Vice-Chair Keeler reported that the sub-committee did meet last week and discussed concerns related City Hall parking. The sub-committee also discussed concerns related to a woman expressing her accessibility issues at Washtenaw Community College. Those who are interested in participating, or leading a committee can contact Vice Chair Keeler for more information.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - RACHEL HAWKINS

Commissioner Hawkins reported that the Ann Arbor Inclusion is recording sessions this month. The organizations is planning to have monthly recording sessions. More information and details to come.

RECRUITING ACTIVITY - LARRY KEELER

Vice-Chair Keeler reported that recruitment for the Commission has been very active. Recruitment has reviewed the applications and interviewed each candidate. 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 Transportation Commission has been informed of the City Hall parking issue from the commission. The Transportation Commission will provide an update to Vice-Chair Keeler on the issue soon. Vice-Chair Keeler shared that the Transportation Commission is reviewing the commissions crash report. The Transportation Commission is also working to add separate bikeways downtown, automatic pedestrian signals, and creating two-way streets instead of one-way streets downtown. More information and details to come.

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

Commissioner Solomon reported that the January 10, 2024 meeting of UM Council for Disability Concerns consisted of a series of brief disability-related updates and reports from the following disability partners: Feranmi Okanlami, Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services (SAAS), Allison Kushner, ADA Coordinator for the University and Director for Disability Equity in ECRT; and Phil Deaton, ITS Accessibility team. Commissioner Solomon shared that the council discussed adaptive sports and fitness, with facts about adaptive sports curriculum adopted by the Ann Arbor public schools. The goal is to de-stigmatize disabilities by exposing 6th graders with and without disabilities to adaptive sports. In addition, future goals also include expanding the program from 6th grade to 7th and 8th grade in Ypsilanti Middle Schools. More information and details to come.

ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - TRACY BYRD

Tracy Byrd reported that she has started to take physical tours of the City's polling locations for accessibility. The polling locations are being reviewed for accessibility from a standpoint of public transportation. Tracy Byrd shared that the University of Michigan Center for Disability, Health and Wellness has a Disability Equity Book Club. The book club meets on monthly base. In addition, Tracy Byrd also reported that the City of Ann Arbor submitted an updated policy for the municipal foundation for employees. The policy is now streamlined and an interactive process. Tracy Byrd shared that in August of 2024 the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (The Ride) bus route number 24 will no longer go all the way to Lake Transit Center.

CITY PERSONNEL REPORT - KENNEDI CUMMINGS

Kennedi Cummings reported that the City of Ann Arbor has completed the search for a Police Chief. The City finalized the search for Police Chief candidates and Andrea Anderson has been named as the new Police Chief for the City of Ann Arbor. More information and updates for the new Police Chief start date to come. There is no additional city personal report or updates at this time.

CHAIR REPORT - ZACH DAMON

Chair Damon shared that the Ann Arbor Bicentennial kickoff celebration will be held this Friday, January 19 2024, from 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. at the Michigan Theater. All are welcomed to attend. The event has been completely sold out.

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

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - AYESHA GHAZI EDWIN

Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin was not present to provide an update.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Damon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mozak meeting adjourned at 5:02 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.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

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