



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, March 15, 2023

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

Z. Damon called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 8 - Larry Keeler, Zachary Damon, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Rachel Hawkins, Debra Poster, Alex Gossage, and Ayesha Ghazi Edwin

Absent 1 - Kinsey Button

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved as presented

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[23-0411](#) CODI February 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Keeler, seconded by Poster, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 4/17/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was brought before the commission.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Michelle Bennett, Equitable Engagement Initiative

Michelle Bennett, Community Engagement Specialist, gave a presentation on the Equitable Engagement Initiative and the Steering Committee's topics and recommendations. Questions and answer period followed.

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 <https://wlbpd.aadl.org/>

[23-0488](#) March Highlights Washtenaw Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

ANN ARBOR CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING - JOYCE BLAIR

For information on the events that are taking place with the CIL, please visit their website at <https://www.annarborcil.org/>

PARTNERS IN ACCESS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - ALEX GOSSAGE & RACHEL HAWKINS

A Gossage reported the group discussed the upcoming Visions 2023 conference on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 and how the commission can fully participate in this event. Also if the commissioners hear about any other events in the community you think would be beneficial to the commission, please reach out to us. They reviewed a concern from a member of the community and former resident of Chicago regarding accessible parking spaces in condominium. Questioning how they were designed, to allow condo spaces sold to specific residents and in turn those residents could sell the spots. He worked on passing a Bill in Chicago that turned back accessible parking spaces. Currently, the City Council is reviewing it as a Community Asset. And the City Attorney's Office is reviewing. L. Keeler want the committee to monitor handicap parking spaces being taken away and turned into pick-up spots in the community.

Ann Arbor Inclusive:

R. Hawkins reported a new show will premiere on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., on CTN Channel 16 and CTN YouTube Channel. Welcoming guest speaker Megan Winters, co-founder and CEO of Able View, they will discuss accessibility information platforms, know before you go, virtual tours and questions about accessibility. The Mind Center

will be their special guest in April.

RECRUITING ACTIVITY - LARRY KEELER

L. Keeler reported on the status of Ms. Radcliff appointment, currently her appointment has completed the first City Council's review and is scheduled for approval at the Monday, March 20, 2023 meeting, afterwards Ms. Radcliff can join the commission in April.

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 reported on February meeting. The next meeting will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. The commission discussed the debate about putting sidewalks in front of Earhart Village and on Brooks Street. Some people consider this area private property. The City want to start filling up sidewalk gaps, but some places don't want the City to build sidewalks. They discussed year end policies and their policy management packet passed for the next year. Work will begin on the north side of Getty's in the summer. The City plans to use computer dashboards to look up pavement and driving conditions and overall maintenance on the roads. AAATA has a budget for the Ypsilanti Transit Center and there will be a new feature to text your buses for time and bus stops.

[23-0423](#) Transportation Commission February Minutes

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

M. Solomon provided an update on the Council for Disability Concerns and read a quotation from the late Judy Heumann. "I wanna see a feisty group of disabled people around the world...if you don't respect yourself and if you don't demand what you believe in for yourself, you're not gonna get it." The council met on March 14 with a presentation by Winter McLeod, ITS Support Services/ODEI Intern. Ms. McLeod discuss best practices around meeting and events accessibility. They are working on an accessibility meetings checklist where events organizers can have a run through of important issues around accessibility and a overview of the protocol showing a comprehensive set of guidelines that will be published and made available to the community later in March.

DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - LAURA ORTA

L. Orta gave an update on the ADA Coordinator Position. Currently there is a draft with new terminology added to the job requirements that will align closely with the mission. She is in the process of working with the interview team on writing interview questions as case studies examples that will include CODI experiences in the process. The funding for the position will be available next fiscal year. The city is moving towards a comprehensive plan and would include representation from CODI to work with the consulting team.

[23-0493](#) ADA Coordinator Position Description Draft

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. There is an upcoming Theater Dialogue Session in collaboration with the Disability Network of Washtenaw and Livonia. This event is being held virtually on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 12 pm. Please try to attend we would like to give Robin Bennett feedback on what they can incorporate and how the session can be helpful to those in the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Formalizing Recruiting Procedures

Z. Damon discussed sharing your feedback on recruiting procedures from previous meetings, and readdress the option of a recruiting

sub-committee to support L. Keeler with application reviews. K. Mozak suggest thinking outside the box. Utilizing our library to post information to get the word out and look into creating social media pages to provide resources and organize with other disability groups for a cross connection with the disability community. R. Hawkins suggest include recruiting as part of Partners in Access (PIA) so they can help bridge the reviewing process. D. Jeanes will draft an outline of the current procedures and prepare for the April PIA meeting. Then reach out to L. Wondrash for advise on implementing CODI Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. D. Poster will help with application review.

NEW BUSINESS

L. Keeler discussed what does the commission want to present at the 2023 Visions Conference on June 7th and add this item to the April meeting under New Business.

COMMUNICATIONS

CM A.G. Edwin gave the commission an update on Main street closures happen every year downtown and how will this impact accessible parking. G. Edwin suggest designate accessible parking along all roads immediately adjacent to the street. Derek Delacourt, Service Area Administrator for the city will look into that option. And add more accessible parking by curb cuts and potentially even mapping out accessible routes, so people are able to plan their visits downtown. G. Edwin plan to meet with the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) to discuss accessible parking and accessibility as a part of street closures and events. She will update the commission at the next meeting. Condo accessible parking spots, she is currently talking to the City Attorney's office and they acknowledge, due to state law would preempt the selling of parking spots from happening. Only if a new development decided not to offer any parking or accessible parking then that would be a problem. Then there would be a segment of the population who will not be able to rent. She has asked for the engineering and transportation department for a report on accessible parking.

Z. ADJOURNMENT

Z. Damon adjourned the meeting at 6:02 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:

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