



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, September 20, 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

Chair Z. Damon called the electronic meeting of the Commission on Disability Issues to order at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All Commissioner participating remotely from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Commissioner Hawkins arrived at 4:15 p.m.

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

Absent 1 - Debra Poster

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No public comment was brought before the commission

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ratcliff, seconded by Damon, that the Minutes be approved by the Commission. On a voice vote, the Chair

declared the motion carried.

23-1209 Commission on Disability Issues Minutes - June 21, 2023

New Commission Candidate Introduction

Chair Damon introduced the two commission candidates to the commission. Chair Damon reported that the candidates application has been reviewed and each candidate has been interviewed by Vice Chair Larry Keeler. Each candidate provided the commission with a brief introduction of themselves and their background on disability issues.

23-1405 New Commission Candidate Introduction

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

CareYaya Ann Arbor Presentation

CareYaya is a new service which offers College Caregivers to residents for only \$15/hour. Their caregiver registry is free to use, and 100% of the payment goes to students! For more information please visit CareYaya website at <https://www.careyaya.org/>

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/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT//RECRUITING ACTIVITY - ALEX GOSSAGE, RACHEL HAWKINS AND LARRY KEELER

Partners in Access: Commissioner Gossage reported that the sub-committee meet last week and discussed concerns related to cyclists and use of sidewalks. The sub-committee also discussed concerns related to crosswalk light times in Pittsfield township. Those who are interested in participating, or leading a committee can contact

Commissioner Gossage for more information.

Community Engagement/Ann Arbor Inclusive: Commissioner Hawkins reported that Ann Arbor Inclusive has not provided the updated report yet but will provide when available.

Recruiting: Vice-Chair Keeler reported there have been a few people interested in joining the Commission. The Commission has received new commission applications. Recruitment currently is reviewing the new commission applications. The Commission currently has 4 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 bottom 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 City is currently working on fencing by the train tracks at Packard and Baldwin as well as Manchester and Nottingham. The Transportation Commission is also working on adding raised crosswalks and adding more speed humps in various areas. In addition, the Transportation Commission is also planning to adjust various bus routes. The commission discussed how to evaluate petitions for bumpers and public bike parking adjustments. The Transportation Commission also plans to address the bike issue in regards to public sidewalks.

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

Commissioner Solomon reported that the UM Council for Disability Concerns is working to form a digital accessibility liaison network. The council is seeking input from the disability community. Commissioner Solomon discussed the creation of a University of Michigan Center for disability, health, and wellness. More information and details of the Center for disability, health, and wellness can be found online.

DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - LAURA ORTA

Director of Organizational Equity Laura Orta was not present to provide an update. Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin reported that the City has hired an Accessibility Coordinator. The candidate for the position will begin on October 2, 2023.

CITY PERSONNEL REPORT - KENNEDI CUMMINGS

K. Cummings introduced herself to the commissioners and stated that she looks forward to working with the commission. There is no city personal report or updates at this time.

CHAIR REPORT - ZACH DAMON

Chair Damon reported that on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023, Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor presented a proclamation recognizing Disability Voting Rights Week to The Ann Arbor Commission on Disability Issues. The award advancing the rights of individuals with disabilities in the voting process. Chair Damon reported that the Delta Dental Foundation in partnership with Positive Expose, is doing a free photo shoot with those with disabilities. Positive Exposure is a non profit which promotes a more inclusive world through award winning photography. The organization is coming to Detroit, Michigan on October 22, 2023 and also Marquette, Michigan on November 5, 2023.

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

A motion was made by Damon, seconded by Keeler, that Rob Packard's application be approved as a new commissioner on the Commission on Disability Issues. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Present 7 - Larry Keeler, Kathleen Mozak, Matthew Solomon, Rachel Hawkins, Alex Gossage, Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, and Rosanita Ratcliff

Absent 2 - Zachary Damon, and Debra Poster

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - AYESHA GHAZI EDWIN

Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin reported that City Council passed the Disability Voting Rights week proclamation. In addition, Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin shared that she wrote a resolution calling the Michigan legislature to phase out sub minimum wage. 60% of sub minimum wage workers currently make about \$3 an hour. Currently no businesses in Ann Arbor practice sub minimum wage. Council Member Ayesha Ghazi-Edwin reported that the DDA is still putting in more accessible parking spaces in downtown Ann Arbor.

[23-1387](#) Subminimum Wage Resolution

OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Keeler stated that he will follow up with the Transportation Commission regarding the DDA fourth street project.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Ratcliff discussed that the federal government this month is holding different sessions for the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act. Commissioner Ratcliff also discussed that health and human services has new rules and regulations on health care and medical discrimination and practices. More details and information will be sent out to the Commission. In addition, Commissioner Ratcliff discussed that the social security income on the federal government has increased.

Starting September 25, 2023 individuals can order four new COVID tests from the Federal Government for free. More information and details can be found online.

ADJOURNMENT

*M. Solomon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by K. Mozak.
Meeting adjourned at 5:51 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.