



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, May 17, 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 4:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent 2 - Matthew Solomon, and Kinsey Button

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per speaker)

No public comment was brought before the commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved as presented

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[23-0780](#) CODI April 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Keeler, seconded by Ratcliff, that the Minutes be Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council and should be returned by 6/12/2023. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - AYESHA GHAZI-EDWIN

CM A. G. Edwin reported the budget was approved for the Accessibility Coordinator position. In a few months the amendment to move Bicentennial park will go into effect. There will be accessibility features in this park. In the near future she will consult with Parks and Recreations about accessibility of the build environment creating the space. CM Edwin discussed the complaint about the placement of mail boxes. A. Gossage reported he received a complaint about a post office box being moved at the Green Road post office. Formerly, the public could drive up to the mail box but, now it has been moved further back away from the street for safety or security precautions. It is positioned in the center of the sidewalks and less convenient, where the public can't drive up to it. A. Gossage will follow up and give a update at June's meeting. The other issues she has reached out to Roads and Engineering about Sidewalks Gaps on Scio Road, and she is waiting on a response from the Condominium Association about parking issue regarding bid outs for their accessible parking spaces to people who don't have disabilities. Hoping to have a meeting with the City in the next few weeks. A.G. Edwin reported the City had 1.4 million generated from the marijuana excise tax and the funds will be spend on eviction prevention and trauma informed wraparound services for people impacted by the criminal justice system. CM's A.G. Edwin, L. Song, C. Watson and C. Harrison will host a joint Coffee Hour to discuss equity issued after the budget season. This event will take place on Sunday, May 22nd at Wheeler Park, 200 Depot Street from 1-3 p.m.

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) - JOYCE BLAIR

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: A. Gossage reported there are two items they covered at their recent meeting: Adequate staffing for the upcoming Visions 2023 Conference and Public Restrooms the City is ready to implement in the future. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday, May 22rd, commissioners and other organizations in the community will be able to provide input to ensure the bathrooms are well placed, accessible, open, and available to everyone.

Community Engagement/Ann Arbor Inclusive: R. Hawkins reported Ann Arbor Inclusive has a new upcoming episode focus on Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorder (MIND). MIND is one of the leading providers of comprehensive care, treating a full range of disorders of the brain, spine and nervous system.

Recruiting: L. Keeler reported currently he has a lead on three applicants. D. Jeanes will send him their contact information. L. Keeler is actively recruiting one person but has not seen his application yet with plans to have one applicant present to the commission in June or September.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION UPDATE - LARRY KEELER

L. Keeler reported on April's meeting. The commission is in the process of drafting their budget. They plan to set aside money for snow removal and road repairs. They plan to purchase 100 E Bikes and 400 more Scooters with switchable batteries that will last up to 100 miles, with phone chargers so the public can text to unlock. Orange barrel season is starting and there is a lot of construction on Scio Church and Maple they are repairing the bridge that crosses over Main Street that project is not due for completion until August. He will mention at tonight's meeting sidewalk gaps, and the issue about putting scooter on the sidewalks down toward Glencoe Hill.

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

Z. Damon reported in M. Solomon's absence. Notes on the May 9, 2023 meeting of the UM Council for Disability Concerns: Most of the meeting was dedicated to a presentation about inclusive teaching by Ellen Meader, Assistant Vice Provost for Equity, Inclusion and Academic Affairs. Discussion centered on Liaisons for Inclusive Teaching, who are tasked with adapting inclusive teaching practices to the pedagogies of specific departments and appointed by Deans. There are liaisons at 18 schools throughout UM, with 34 liaisons total spread throughout 24 units. Specific areas covered by the liaisons include "assessment and evaluation, anti-racist pedagogy, trauma informed pedagogy, and accessibility." Discussion followed.

DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL EQUITY - LAURA ORTA

L. Orta reported on the status of the job description for Accessibility Coordinator. If there are no additions to the description she plans to send it to the City Attorney's Office for approval. Afterward she will start the job launch process working with recruiting to create an ad by mid

June to go out to the public. L. Orta wants to know who would like to serve with her on the interview panel and afterwards be involved in some phone interviews. Z. Damon has volunteered to participate in the interview process. There is an opportunity for her office to hire an analyst to process all the data she is collecting. This will help to start setting metrics about what we see, and where we want to see growth, in areas of outreach and engagement to set goals. The City plans to implement a compensation study for all City employees moving forward. Z. Damon suggest that Lara reach out to A. Gossage at Disability Network (Washtenaw, Monroe and Livingston)) to collaborate in a joint resume and government writing workshops.

CITY PERSONNEL REPORT - DENISE JEANES

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

CHAIR REPORT - ZACH DAMON

Z. Damon gave the chair report. He discussed Global Awareness Accessibility Day (GAAD) on Thursday, May 18th. The purpose of GAAD is to get everyone talking, thinking and learning about digital access and inclusion. To help our community, show our social media prowess and celebrate GAAD. Z. Damon will send an email with more information.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS

K. Mozak discussed the Out Loud Chorus, which is Washtenaw County's oldest LGBTQI+ ally choir. The chorus is performing this weekend and for the first time will have an in person sign language interpreter for the entire concert. The title is "Lets Talk about Nature" on May 19th and 20th at 8:00 p.m. both nights at the Arthur Miller Theatre, at the Walgreen Drama Center at, 1226 Murphin Avenue, in Ann Arbor. If you are interested in tickets, they can be purchased at olonline.org. If anyone is unemployed, tickets are free, also, the event is available on zoom.

D. Poster reported May 20th the City of Ann Arbor is having beautification in the parks, they are looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested go to A2gov.org for more information.

ADJOURNMENT

*L. Keeler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by D. Poster.
Meeting adjourned at 5:10 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**

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