

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Disabilities
MINUTES
February 4, 2009

Voting Members Present: Joan Baltusis, Allison Fennell, Kevin Hynes, Laurie Jerue, Mary Wright, Jennie Gates, Peter Berg

Student Members Present: Gia Landi

Staff Present: Marita Manning

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Baltusis at 7:05pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Wright motioned to approve the January minutes with noted changes. Commissioner Jerue seconded the motion.
- III. Introduction of New Commissioners: Chairperson Baltusis introduced new Commissioners Jennie Gates and Peter Berg.
- IV. Public Forum: None
- V. Communications received:
 - a. Staff Member Manning reported that Staff Member DiSanto forwarded an email to the Commissioners regarding a citizen's complaint about an apartment complex in Naperville.
 - b. Commissioner Jerue reported an update regarding Naper Settlement and a citizen's complaint about accessibility issue at a children's program. Another meeting was set for February.
 - c. Commissioner Wright reported to the Commission regarding "drive-by" law suits for non-compliance of ADA statutes. Commissioner Wright emailed Chairperson Baltusis and Staff Member Manning in advance of the issue. Commissioner Berg reported to the Commission that law suits of this nature are often successful because there are no money damages built into the ADA. The Department of Justice enforces the ADA and local municipalities can only enforce their local building codes. Commissioner Berg reported that many times businesses are willing to settle these suits instead of fixing the issue because it may appear as though it is the easier solution. Although this has not been reported to have occurred in Naperville, Staff Member Manning reported to the Commission that code enforcement in the City would take the complaint and forward information to the ADA Coordinator.
 - d. Chairperson Baltusis shared information regarding special movie days at the AMC Cantera 30 received from Commissioner Wright.
 - e. Chairperson Baltusis shared information regarding social skills groups for children with autism received from Commissioner Buckman.
 - f. Staff Member Manning reported that Staff Member DiSanto received notification that the complaint about Ribfest has been closed. The special events checklist created with the Commission was reported to be the solution.
 - g. Chairperson Baltusis shared information regarding the Disability Fair.
 - i. Chairperson Baltusis reported that the exhibitor mailings will be sent out in February according to Commissioner Noe.

- ii. Commissioner Jerue will contact Elena Makris regarding having the transition students from District 204 to do the mailings
 - iii. Commissioner Fleischel will contact Elena Makris to organize the student's involvement.
 - iv. Staff Member Manning reported that the SECA workshop will be held March 10 and information from that meeting will be forwarded to the Commissioners at that time.
- VI. Old Business:
 - a. Staff Member Manning updated the Commission regarding Centennial Beach and a special swim time for families of children with disabilities. A representative from the Park District will be present for the Commission meeting on March 4.
 - b. Chairperson Baltusis updated the Commission regarding the Strategic Initiative which was approved during the Strategic Planning workshop in January. Chairperson Baltusis distributed information regarding defining working goals and objectives. Staff Member Manning distributed an example of a work plan and explained what Strategic Plan Initiatives are and how they work.
 - c. Commissioner Hynes gave a recent history of the Commission for the benefit of the new Commissioners.
- VII. New Business:
 - a. Commissioner Fleischel asked the Commission to determine model cities in order to assist in the Commission's future planning objectives.
 - b. Staff Member Manning will clarify the due dates of the Strategic Plan and work plan with Staff Member DiSanto.
 - c. Commissioner Berg requested that information on the city website be available in accessible PDF format.
- VIII. Adjournment: Commissioner Wright motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Commissioner Hynes seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Fennell
Secretary