

Advisory Commission on Disabilities
Minutes
May 6, 2009

Commission Members Present: Joan Baltusis, Allison Fennell, Judi Buckman, Kathe Foxen, Laurie Jerue, Nancy Lullo, Diane Fleischel and Mary Wright

Student Members Present: Gia Landi

Staff: Marita Manning, Accessibility Coordinator

Others: Anna Marie Kissel, Cindi Swanson, Crys Hum, Mary Batterham, Nicholas Foxen

Absent: Peter Berg, Kevin Hynes, and Carrie Noe.

- I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Introduction of visitors and new commissioner Kathe Foxen.
- III. Approval of the April Minutes.
Motion by Laurie Jerue and second by Judi Buckman. All voted to approve with one change.
- IV. Public Forum
 - a. Cindi Swanson stated that Washington Street was closed between 5th Avenue and Benton and both the East and West sides were closed simultaneously. There was no notice to those with low vision.
 - b. Mary Batterham will reapply for open position on commission.
- V. Communications received:
 - 1) Sheryl Lindenbaum wrote to Dan DiSanto concerning transportation, social services. DiSanto forwarded the communiqué to commissioners Jerue and Berg. Commissioner Jerue spoke with Cindi Swanson. Spireos and Center for Independent Living and forwarded the information to DiSanto. Staff member Manning to follow up with DiSanto.
 - 2) Naperville resident Cindi Swanson sent an e-mail indicating her appreciation for the Disability Fair held on May 2, 2009.
 - 3) E-mail from Bruce Andrews, a professional fundraiser for the Vaughan Paralyzed Veterans, who was given a notice of the Resource Fair. His organization is looking for disabled adults to work primarily on Saturdays in DuPage County and surrounding areas. Job requirements include motivation, work as an independent contractor, a minimum of 18 years of age and able to provide own transportation. Contact information was given.
 - 4) E-mail from Ray McGury, Executive Director of Naperville Park District to Manning concerning Special Needs Evenings at Centennial Beach. Commission questioned whether reservations were for one time only or every week. Also clarification sought on where this information is posted and whether copies were given to the school districts.

- 5) TED provided parade route for the Memorial Day Parade. Commission commented that Accessible and Accessibility were not spelled correctly. Also requested TED replace the term “handicapped” with “accessible.”
- 6) Kim Grabow, Project Engineer wrote a memo to the Commission dated April 20, 2009 regarding an update on the pedestrian crossing at Iroquois and Ogden Avenue. The city has included the engineering work to improve the pedestrian accommodations at the intersection by including a countdown pedestrian signal and modifying the sidewalk to include detectable warnings. A public meeting will be held and the plan will be included in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2010 which begins in May 2010.
- 7) Commission expressed its gratitude for the work of Commissioner Fennel. Commissioner Fennel stated she was proud of the work of the commission and enjoyed being a part of the commission. Commission welcomed new member Kathe Foxen.

VI. Old Business:

- a. Resource Fair – 62 vendors were present. The weather cooperated and the front circle of the City Hall was used for adapted bicycles. Manning stated that an hour of staff time was used to fill a bag of garbage from the horses and that the request for five additional tables on the day of the Resource Fair was an issue. Comments that next year the commission would plan to order more tables. Comments that the artwork in the lobby was an issue. Question why the art work displayed in lobby was not put away. Comments as to whether the fair could be held at another location. Parking is an issue. If the fair were held at Jefferson Middle School, the 75-100 parking spaces would be taken up by vendors and not leave room for visitors. It was also noted that having the fair is important for the good will of the City of Naperville. Complaints from one vendor that there was too much noise from the concert. Suggestion that donated raffle items or give aways be used to draw people to Rooms A, B and C. Suggestion that we survey vendors for feedback when a thank you is sent to them. Suggestion of having a ticket where certain vendors are designated as locations for visitors to get a stamp on their ticket to be entered in for a prize. Comments that the resource fair provides a valuable service to the community. Manning stated it was mandatory that a report be submitted since SECA funds were used.
- b. Strategic Plan Initiative
A subcommittee meeting will be held before the June meeting. Invitation made for other commissioners to participate.
- c. Turning Pointe update

Kevin Gallaher did not provide information to anyone on the commission relative to his promise to our committee last month that he would provide answers to questions he was unable to answer. A letter will be drafted to the Mayor. Commissioner Jerue volunteered to jot down some paragraphs to Mayor to remind the Mayor and City Council of the vision. Public documents need for housing for PWD. Proposed development is not sustainable or philosophical. Additionally, we could share experts such as Sheila Romano, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities and Lilia Teninty, Executive Director, Developmental Disability Division at IDHS. Both are aware of Turning Pointe and would be happy to weigh in. Also suggestion that Tamar Heller, Center for Excellence, and other resources could be contacted for the city to understand regarding problems with funding the residential portion of Turning Pointe.

d. Naper Settlement update

Commissioner Hynes requested Naper Settlement come to the commission meeting. Peggy Frank, executive director for the Settlement, requested to know who needs to be present. Chair Baltusis clarified who needed be here. There was a disconnect in the letter sent by Naper Settlement stating to let them know one week in advance of the need for accommodations, whereas elsewhere it stated to bring the information to class.

e. Determination of ACD chair and secretary for next term.

Commissioner Wright volunteered to be secretary. Commissioner Jerue nominated Commissioner Berg to be Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Wright. No other nominations for chair. Unanimous recommendation for Berg to be Chair of ACD Commission. Chair Baltusis will send e-mail to Mayor, Dan DiSantos and Marita Manning recommending that as an accommodation, staff send communiqués, e-mails and documents in advance to Chair Berg.

f. Thank you to Allison Fennell for her work on commission and for serving as secretary. We wish her well in her new residence, outside of Naperville.

g. Ribfest

Manning attended meeting with Ribfest representatives. Gave commission members copy of proposed layout.

Comments favorable to proposed layout include the drop off zone; the accessible shuttles, and having consolidated off-site parking.

Questions arose as to: will sign language interpreter be on jumbo tron?

Will there be a sign language interpreter available if needed in emergency area to sign for those who need such? Also where/what location will sign language interpreter be? Are there site lines for the second stage?

Are there amplifiers movable if necessary? How will people in wheelchairs get from the drop off point to the secondary stage?

Suggestion that having secondary accessible entrance on Hillside by Porter street. Who can enter/exit the accessible entrance off West Street? If only disabled, what about companions? As to the assigned seating for people with disabilities, if only one person is designated to accompany people with disabilities, will put some families in hardship as they won't be able to sit together. What about one child with two parents, or family with more than one child? Question as to how large is park area (35,000 capacity). Having 1800 square feet designated for accessible seating is okay per Great Lakes DBTAC. Are volunteers going to be trained or have pins indicating they know sign language? Some members disappointed that there was no set aside area for quiet time and no special time (such as early opening) for rides for disabled (as suggested in guidelines).

VII. New Business

A. Vision statement.

Discussion of vision statement postponed due to length of meeting.

B. Disability Law Handbook distributed. Thank you to Peter Berg for providing.

C. Other

VIII. Announcements

The next meeting will be June 3, 2009

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Jerue moved to adjourn.

Commissioner Lullo seconded.

Vote taken. All were in favor of adjourning.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.