

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **Advisory Commission on Disabilities (ACD)**

Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 6:30pm  
City Hall, 400 S. Eagle Street  
Meeting Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established as members introduced themselves.

ACD Commissioners Present:

Tim Dumler (Chair), Susan Ahlemeyer, Jorgen Philips, Sheri Baumgartner, Andrea Marwah, Kish Pisani, City Councilman Paul Hinterlong

Public Attendees:

Carl Skrabacz	Jacinto Villa
Carol Skrabacz	Natalie Villa
Ann Ahlman	Kimberly Villa
Kathleen MacLennan	Sherry Bryant
Cindi Swanson	John Uhrich
Arthur Swanson	Crys Hum
Karen Courney	

Staff: Amy Emery, Strategic Projects Supervisor

2. Minutes. Motion made by Ahlemeyer, second by Baumgartner to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2016 Joint Meeting of the ACD and Senior Task Force. Motion passed unanimously.
3. New Business. Chairman Dumler noted the Park District has developed a new Audio Tour at Knoch Knolls Park. He expressed his appreciation to the Park District and noted that it provides a wonderful means for disabled residents to experience the park.
4. Old Business
  - a. ADA Facility Transition

Amy Emery provided a recap of the *ADA Facility Transition Plan* development process and document structure. She noted that the public comment period on the plan has been open since the February 3, 2016 ACD Meeting. The plan has been available on-line and a paper copy has been available for review at the Municipal Center. The City solicited comments through its web page, Facebook and Twitter accounts and issued a press release to request comments. No comments were provided during the comment period.

Chairman Dumler provided an opportunity for the public to provide additional comments at the meeting. No comments were provided.

Motion made by Dumler, second by Baumgartner to recommend approval of the *City of Naperville ADA Facility Transition Plan* to the Naperville City Council. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Student Awards

Commissioners Ahlemeyer, Pisani and Baumgartner presented the ACD with the 2016 nominations. Eight nominations were received (Six from one teacher at Waubonsie Valley, one from Naperville Central and one from Naperville North). They noted that no submittals were provided from Nequa Valley or Metea Valley this year. Given the number of submittals and the quality of the applications received, they recommended two students from Waubonsie Valley High School receive the award along with the students nominated from Naperville Central and Naperville North High Schools.

The ACD asked that all nominees receive a letter of congratulations recognizing their achievements for being nominated. As part of the discussion it was suggested by some that for any future student awards each high school be asked to submit only one candidate.

A motion was made by Philips and seconded by Ahlemeyer to present four student awards to students from Waubonsie Valley, Naperville Central and Naperville North High Schools at the May 3, 2016 Naperville City Council Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Hinterlong asked that he be included on the agenda item to present the nominations. As was done in previous years, a small reception was suggested after the award presentation for the winning students and their family in attendance.

c. Future of the ACD

Chairman Dumler opened the conversation on this item by drawing attention to the decision matrix provided in the agenda packet as a tool to frame the conversation.

All members of the public in attendance expressed strong opposition to the idea of a single task force focused on both senior and disability issues. They felt that the challenges and needs of the populations are unique and should be addressed independently. In addition, they expressed strong reservations about the dissolving of the ACD and establishing an independent task force. They reiterated concerns about transparency of a task force, authority, permanency, and respect. They echoed concerns raised by the public at the December, February, and March ACD meetings.

Speakers asked questions about the staff team currently in place to address Naperville ADA compliance. Amy Emery explained:

- The team has been in place since 2013 and meets regularly. After a year-long pilot with the team-based approach, the ACD endorsed this approach as a permanent means of providing ADA assistance in 2014.
- Use of a team is common in peer communities and provides the public with subject matter experts in City facilities, special events, and communications to respond to specific questions and concerns.

- In accordance with federal ADA requirements, one person is named as the ADA Coordinator, but that person does not need to have that title as his or her only job. Ms. Emery explained that while she serves as the named ADA Coordinator for the City, it is the whole team that works to address ADA issues.
- Reports on the activities and initiatives of the team are included as part of every ACD meeting agenda during the staff report.

The ACD requested to meet the staff team at an upcoming meeting.

Several speakers shared frustration based on personal experiences with City staff and City programs related to taxi licensing, police response to situations with special needs populations and requests for traffic improvements. In response to the specific concerns raised:

- Amy Emery noted that no formal complaints have been made against the City with respect to any of the events described by the speakers. In accordance with the Municipal Code, any formal complaint would have been brought to the ACD for consideration. Further, Ms. Emery reminded the Commission that she does provide a staff report at each meeting to update the ACD about staff action taken in response to any questions and concerns raised by residents. With respect to the comments made during the meeting, Ms. Emery noted this was the first she was hearing of some of these interactions.
- Ms. Emery reviewed briefly ADA responsibilities of the City versus Taxi companies.
- While she did not have a list of specific roadway improvements made at particular locations, Ms. Emery noted the City's commitment to achieve ADA compliance with its rights-of-ways has been established through upgrades identified in *Naperville's ADA Rights-of-Way Transition Plan* approved by the ACD in 2013.
- Councilman Hinterlong noted that the Naperville Police Department has completed an extensive training effort recently focused on response to special needs populations.

Ms. Emery offered to follow-up with staff and provide additional information for the ACD at their next meeting with respect to the concerns raised. The Commission also asked for more information about the Police Department training efforts.

To bring the conversation to a conclusion and provide direction going forward, Chairman Dumler asked the ACD to vote on the questions included in the agenda packet.

- *Motion by Dumler, second by Baumgartner to recommend to the Mayor and Council creation of Joint Task Force with the Senior Task Force to address both senior and disability issues.*

The vote on the motion failed - 1 aye vote (Phillips) and 5 nays. A joint task force is not recommended, but collaboration with the Senior Task Force on disability issues was encouraged.

- Motion by Ahlemeyer, second by Phillips, to recommend to the Mayor and City Council the establishment of an independent disabilities task force or committee.

Motion was approved unanimously. With discussion, it was agreed that the ACD should spend time working to define its recommendation more clearly to include suggestions for the scope of the recommended task force/committee.

- Motion by Baumgartner second by Phillips to recommend to the Mayor and City Council that the City retain the current Advisory Commission on Disabilities but refine its powers and duties.

Motion passed unanimously. ACD agreed time should be spent at upcoming meetings to provide some specific suggestions for modifications to the ACD related to meeting schedules, membership, size, and scope of responsibilities, particularly in relationship to any task force/committee established.

d. Staff Report

At the request of the ACD, due to the lateness of the hour, the staff report was postponed until the next meeting.

5. Adjournment

All ACD members agreed an additional meeting should be added to the ACD calendar on the first Wednesday in May to continue the conversation about the future of the ACD.

Motion to adjourn by Baumgartner and second by Ahlemeyer. The ACD Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:42 p.m.