

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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

Wednesday, May 4, 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, Sheri Baumgartner, Tanvi Bhatt (arrived 6:42), Andrea Marwah, Jorgen Philips, Barbara Stark, City Councilman Paul Hinterlong

Public Attendees:

Carl Skrabacz, Senior Task Force  
Cindi Swanson, Resident  
Kristi Landorf, Little Friends  
Karen Courney, Senior Task Force

Staff:

Mike Anders, Deputy Chief NPD  
Amy Emery, Strategic Projects Supervisor\*  
Kristen Foley, Assistant City Attorney\*  
Debbie Hanson, Crime Prevention Specialist\*  
Doug Krieger, City Manager  
Dawn Portner, Special Events Coordinator\*

\*Denotes Members of City ADA Compliance Team

2. Minutes. Motion made by Marwah, second by Phillips to approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment Items Not on Agenda. No Comments.
4. New Business. No Items.
5. Old Business

- a. ADA Team Introduction / Staff Report

Amy Emery introduced the staff members on the ADA Compliance Team. She noted that the Communications Department and Public Works Department representatives were unable to attend. She shared that the City Web Site is now in a soft launch and it is fully 508 compliant on behalf of the Communications Department. Additionally, she noted that Beth Lang, the staff team member from the Public Works Department, looks forward to meeting with the ACD in the future to report on implementation progress of the Facility Transition Plan.

By means of background, Amy Emery explained that the ADA Staff Compliance Team was established in 2013 with the support and recommendation of the ACD. The advantage of the team is that it provides residents with subject matter experts

in the areas of City facilities, events, and programs to provide better response. In accordance with ADA requirements, the City continues to have a formal grievance procedure in place. Kristen Foley and Dawn Portner provided the ACD with some information about their roles and responsibilities on the ADA Compliance Team relative to legal requirements and special events, respectively.

It was at this point that Ms. Emery also explained, based on the discussion at the last meeting, staff is recommending an additional member be added to the team to provide a perspective from public safety. Police Chief Marshall has nominated Crime Prevention Specialist Debbie Hanson for the role. Debbie was present at the meeting and also introduced herself to the ACD. She noted that one of her current responsibilities is management of the Fast Track Program which is a nationally acclaimed program that provides a vital life-saving resource for residents with cognitive disabilities. The ACD agreed with the staff recommendation to expand the staff ADA Compliance Team to include a public safety representative.

At this time, Amy Emery, in her capacity as ADA Coordinator, provided the staff report. She noted on April 4, 2016 there was a first ever meeting of ADA Coordinators in the region. Thirty-three representatives attended the meeting. She noted that with the exception of one community, all others used the same team-based approach as Naperville and assigned the ADA Coordinator duties to a staff person with other responsibilities. She also noted this group decided to convene regularly and committed to providing the ACD with updates and information obtained from these collaborations.

Commissioner Baumgartner confirmed with staff that issues, should they arise, are being brought to the ACD. Amy Emery provided examples of how this has been done in the past year. She also noted, that while she may get questions, many are from individuals living beyond the City and/or from persons who have issues with private businesses, not Naperville City-owned and operated programs, facilities and services. Kristen Foley noted that the City of Naperville has seen only one ADA grievance filed in 10 years. Based on her experience and knowledge in the field that is an excellent track record. Moreover, on-going efforts to improve special events, right-of-way, and city facilities demonstrate Naperville's commitment to ADA compliance.

Commissioners thanked staff for their efforts and the reporting provided in the packet. Staff committed to continue to provide annual reporting to improve communications between the ADA Staff Compliance Team and the ACD.

b. ADA Compliance Follow-up Discussion

At the April 6, 2016 meeting, several residents provided personal experiences calling into question the City's ADA compliance. Staff provided the ACD with additional information related to existing and on-going public sidewalk and R.O.W. improvements, street clearing practices, planned facility improvements and staff (including police) training practices. In addition to the information provided in the packet, Deputy Chief Mike Anders of the Naperville Police Department and Kristi Landorf of Little Friends discussed some upcoming training initiatives planned this year to compliment the mental health training discussed in the agenda packet. The de-escalation training is being done in partnership with Little Friends. This type of

training is different than was taught at the police academy years ago and offers a more appropriate response to incidents involving persons with cognitive disabilities. One additional suggestion made by Deputy Chief Anders was to encourage residents with relatives living in Naperville with cognitive disabilities to introduce themselves to their local beat officer. Should an issue arise, awareness of special needs will be important to provide specialized service response.

Cindee Swanson complimented the NPD and Little Friends for their ongoing and upcoming training efforts.

Carl Skrabacz suggested that Deputy Chief Anders consider reaching out to police officers within the NPD to get their suggestions for working with individuals with cognitive disabilities.

Commissioners thanked Deputy Chief Anders and Ms. Landorf for attending the meeting and providing this information. They expressed their appreciation for the NPD commitment to providing specialized response services to those with cognitive disabilities.

c. ACD Future-Commission and Committee

Chairman Dumler introduced the topic. The goal is to provide City Council with clear direction as to the roles and responsibilities of the recommended Task Force and also potential changes to the ACD. He noted, it will be important for these two bodies to work in harmony, not in conflict with one another, or have duplicative roles.

The ACD agreed that the schedule proposed in the agenda memo, to focus this month on ACD roles and responsibilities, next month on the Task Force and in August review the final complete recommendation was an acceptable approach.

Amy Emery reviewed the information provided in the packet, including the staff recommendation that the ACD focus on City matters and the Task Force focus on Title 3 (Private Businesses) and also promote community education/awareness. She reviewed the challenges the ACD has had over the last several years in establishing quorum and having agenda items. She also noted, that with the recommendation to establish a Task Force, Naperville will be one of only a handful of communities to have a Commission and the only one to have both a Commission and a Task Force.

To prepare a clear recommendation to City Council, she asked the ACD to provide response to a series of straw votes. The information received will then be summarized in August. The votes were based on a comprehensive review of similar boards/commissions in the region and their respective responsibilities.

Based on the discussion, straw votes were unanimously supported for the following:

- Keeping the ACD focused on city policies, programs and facilities.
- Reducing the size of the ACD from 11 to 7 members to reduce quorum challenges.

- Changing the ACD meeting schedule from bi-monthly to quarterly, with the option to call additional meeting as needed.
- Continuing to receive regular staff reports at all meetings.
- Moving award program responsibilities to the Task Force, with the ACD endorsing selections, as desired.
- Require staff to annually report on ADA Facility and ADA Right-of-Way Plan implementation efforts.
- Continuing to periodically provide proclamations to City Council.
- Having the ACD annually review its communications posted on the Naperville web site and other resources to ensure its accuracy and effectiveness.
- Having the Task Force facilitate education and outreach efforts, such as workshops, festival presence, presentations, and job fairs.

#### 6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Baumgartner and second by Phillips. The ACD Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:12 p.m.