

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Studio A
Public Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2003, 2 PM

Commissioners & Staff Present:

Cathy McAdam
Kim B. Hetrick
Dale Swanson
Claudia Damian
Gary Filiak
Mary Hodak
Cheryl Kreger (2:52-4:40)
Susan Fitzmaurice, ADA Coordinator

Commissioners Excused:

Jane Thomas, excused
Christian Mageli, excused

Guests:

Denise Toepfer, Recreation (Until 3:02)

Call to Order:

2:16 PM

Agenda:

Dale Swanson " I move to approve the agenda with the change Cathy detailed."

Kim B. Hetrick seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes:

Dale:" I move to approve the minutes as is." Kim seconded. Unanimous approval.

ADA Report (Susan Fitzmaurice)

- New/old furniture placed in my office resulted in loss of name plates. DPW will replace.
- Snow will have 2 unisex bathrooms, 1 accessible, the entry way will have an auto door, New signage and new water fountain.
- Ford auditorium will have 5 seats placed in 3 spots. Ramp to stage area is going to be developed.
- Bryant will have an accessible unisex bathroom placed just to right of basement entrance near elevator. There will be keyed access to the rest of the basement.
- DPW accessible bathroom nearly complete.

- Everyone has been contacted who will get Uniphones and the process to get them installed is coming along.
- Public TTYS are problematical. The court and the Ford Center are owned by the city and will be put in place by Paul Klink. City Hall is owned by SBC and needs to be resolved in another way. The police no longer have a pay phone - so we need to decide what to do with the other phone.
- Web page is coming along. New web page should be up by April 11th. New web page address is www.dearborn-disabilities.org KIm will check web page for errors.
- Braille business cards are at the brailers. They will be large print and Braille. We should have them soon--it is a very long process.
- Assistive listening has been approved. PO sent to Sound Controls today.
- Budget approved by executive committee by and large approved by Kurt. He increased it. We now await approval by Mayor and then City Council.
- Cathy & I were interviewed on cable TV for Kiwanis.
- I went to Oakland CIL and presented info on ADA Coordinator position.
- I went to a workshop on grassroots organizing and grant writing. I learned a lot- see yahoo note for more details. Sadly none of the grant info seemed particularly relevant to the commission.
- I am taking an accessible web design course with 1/2 support from commission and learning more than I ever imagined.
- Susan went over a time line for how long it takes to get a project going from start to finish.

Vice-Chair Report (Cathy McAdam)

- Cathy reported on Christian's phone call. Christian said his wound was healing well and apologized for being over stressed of late.
- Christian provided copies of the Disability Agenda to all and suggested that all commissioners be familiar with the contents. Cathy commented that this is the first time such a coalition has existed to create a statewide policy statement.
- 2 commissioners appointed: Mona Ramouni, a student, and Nancy Bower, a mental health professional.
- Cathy needs a list of commissioner contact info.
- Cathy will be at Living w/o Limitations at Cobo Hall and encourages us all to go. May 8th 10- 6 (She provided flyers.)
- Secretary of State forming accessible voting committee. Cathy & Claudia will write a letter of support.
- Medicaid Buy-In has been approved. Social Security recipients first to be eligible,
- Cathy has been asked to review Chamber of Commerce web site. Will be providing ADA info for web site and newsletter. Chamber is very appreciative of

our needs and very supportive of our efforts in disability advocacy.

Recreation Report (Denise Toepfer)

Denise brought up an issue involving a shower chair in the Fitness Center family changing room. A patron has asked the PAC if it purchase a specific shower chair. She was asked by Cathy if there was a weight limit use for the existing chair and if so that needs to be posted. It needs to be checked how it is stabilized- perhaps large cane caps can be utilized to create a more stable chair. Dale will contact Kevin Mitchell and see if he has any insights. The commission will make a written recommendation when it has more information. Denise also mentioned that a new flat bench has been specially created for use by wheelchair using patrons to utilize the free weights.

Inter-modal Station (Claudia Damian)

The final 3 designs that was presented to the public for the intermodal station were discussed. She is unclear whether her suggestions have been addressed in the final design. It was suggested that we be prepared to make public comments when the design goes before the City Council for approval.

By-laws Change (Kim B. Hetrick)

One by-law change was reviewed by Kurt Giberson advised it was unnecessary. This was agreed to by the Commission. A second was approved unanimously after being moved by Dale and seconded by Claudia. The bylaw change reads:
Article III, Section A, Paragraph 2

The commission shall have nine members and two alternates. The nine members shall be appointed by the mayor for a term of three years. The alternates shall be appointed for one year and have no vote unless serving to replace an absent member. The first appointments to the commission shall be three commissioners each for one-year, two-year and three-year terms. Subsequent appointments shall be for three years.

Town Hall (Claudia Damian)

- Cathy & Susan will develop the logistic to the presentation itself.
- The food provided will come out of our budget.
- Cheryl will bring 6 dozen cookies & napkins.
- Susan will arrange for coffee, tea, and bottled water.
- Commissioners were reminded that to encourage audience participation, commissioners and ADA Coordinator need to limit their participation.
- Madonna U has our letter requested student interpreters posted
- Announcement about THM will be on Channel 25, Comcast, March 27th

- Cathy arranged to get a closed captioned promo on Detroit Info Service
 - Kevin Mitchell will contact Roger for Tuesday 5 PM show and that he announce THM. Can be contacted later to announce DAD.
 - Flyers going to the Free press, Detroit News, Times Herald, Press & Guide. Mary will pass out flyers at Senior Expos 3/13.
 - Everyone will be responsible for passing out flyers. A list is available.
 - Brochures are in and updated. Kevin suggested the city and commission logo be on the flyers- that they be printed on yellow paper and in blue ink. Kevin offered service of Philip Wright as long as the PW logo on flyers.
 - Email from DPW will go to all Department heads.
 - Dales sign-in sheets will serve as a prototype for THM sign-in- with a date added, heading, and a box added for those who do not want to be put on our mailing list.
 - Entry and post presentation survey still to be developed
 - Email finished copy to local groups to pass onto members
 - Jane faxed a copy to city council. THM will be mentioned at next City Council meeting.
 - Susan & Claudia will make a site tour of Dome room to get an idea of how small the THM will.(After the meeting.)
- * PAC will do setup and tear-down. Susan will check if we need to do cleanup. People should arrive between 12 and 12:30 to help.

Disability Awareness Day (Dale Swanson)

- Call vendors on your list if you have not. 100 letters distributed.
- The 15 vendors participating were named bringing in about \$1500.00.
- DPW will include a flyer with 3rd Q water bill (32,000 residents.)
- Ford Motor Co, bringing 2 vehicles adapted for people with disabilities
- Dale, Cathy, & Kurt meeting w/ mayor March 27th
- Booked Studio A for workshops - 10-4 PM.
- Nomination forms distributed, also to be posted on web site (see DAD page.)
- Builder for a visitability presentation in lieu of table payment. (Contact Karen Murphy for recommendation.)
- Contact Dohn Hoyle to do a guardian alternatives presentation
- It was agreed that we ask the mayor to proclaim a disability week. Kim motioned “ Cathy and Dale will take a recommendation to the Mayor that the DAD be associated with a Disability Awareness Week, to be declared for the city, running from October 20-26. . Seconded by Claudia. Unanimous approval.
- Evening entertainment - discuss with Theatre Manager. (Angela Henley 2381)
- Ask Christian to email Kurt about refreshments at DAD.

Visitability (Kim B. Hetrick)

- Met w/ Dave Norwood and Kurt Giberson. Recommendation that we meet with local builders to discuss the pros and cons of Visitability and Universal Design. We can counter some of their concerns, and help them understand the advantages this could give them in terms of market opportunities, etc. It was agreed we could ask the city to reduce or eliminate fees for permits, etc., for those builders who are planning on building accessible housing. Dave Norwood will set up a meeting with some of the top builders operating in Dearborn, and notify Kim Hetrick & Dale Swanson of the date, and they will both attend.
- AARP is a powerful lobby, and has considerable influence in the legislative field. The CEO of AARP has stated his unequivocal support for both Visitability and Universal Design.
- Susan mentioned a discussion with Anita Toews where she mentioned Ann Arbor was considering a visitability ordinance. Kim will check to see what Ann Arbor is doing.

Public Relations (Dale Swanson)

- Press & Guide (March 13th)
- Detroit News, Free Press, Dearborn Times Herald (March 14th) articles about Town Hall.. Also on City web site.
- WDET banner airing.
- Flyers to be passed out at Chamber of Commerce, Heath-a-Rama
- Email flyer to Ann Sonoga, Outreach counselor for dearborn Senior Housing on April 1
- Public Service Announcements on CDTV & Community calendar

Accessibility (Claudia Damian)

- Cathy & Claudia have volunteered to be a part of the 75th anniversary planning committee- Mayor has yet to choose participants.
- Kurt has given us permission to have snacks & beverages at commission meetings. Purchasers must give receipts to Susan at that meeting. Keep copies for your own record. Beverages from Shields - water, juice, and canned pop. Gary will be in charge of snack food.
- Chris Hunter has said there are no cross disability training sessions planned for the Dearborn police. We have the go-ahead to do our own- it would be good to have neighborhood associations participate in these too.
- William Sounds assistive listening being placed April 18th (Susan)

Education/ Employment (Cathy McAdam)

- Workshops to remain fluid until after THM. Communication with people with disabilities by Robin Jones. Mary will make contact in the arts. Ray Roberson will cover transportation with a SMART booth. Kevin will try to develop something relevant to sports. Special ed & Health issues hope to be defined by THM.
- MI Works - ACCESS Center computers not accessible to Blind users. Follow-up with Jack O'Reiley's office. There is grant money available to purchase new equipment. Cathy will continue to follow-up.
- Kim, Claudia, & Cathy will be presenting info to HS students related to job readiness on May 2nd..
- Chamber Expos very successful. Kim, Dale & Cathy participated. Multiple flyers distributed.

Mary Hodak

- Senior Health & Job Fair. March 13th 10-3 well-organized, but bad weather. 30 vendors. 100-125 attended. 30 signed in.
- 911 cell phones are being distributed thru police dept., for use in car only. She let Paul Klink know about it. DH phones are available to anyone.
- Project Healthy Living. April 2nd 10-6 Tables will be covered by Commission members and Dearborn AAUW members.
- Women's Club of Dearborn available for mailings.
- Mary will continue to attend Arts Council meetings. There will be a Chamber exhibit - Henry Ford Town Hall series.
- For Town Hal Mary will get AAUW volunteers - 2/registration, 2/refreshments, 2 circulating

Gary Filiak

- Will help Mary April 2 with Health-a-Rama.
- As a volunteer usher at PAC events he hears many complaints about handicapped parking, but also that the PAC is very accessible.
- Homecoming Committee has not met since fall. Gary will attend and will confirm we have a site near the bridge.

Claudia Damian

- Claudia discussed the new hire presentation. She described some of her interactions with the participants.
- TTY tests have been excellent. 100% successful.

Cathy McAdam

- Baby shower for Heather Giberson.

- Invite Joe Schimizzi to next Commission meeting. Susan brought to the commission some concerns regarding parking permits. It was felt we needed further clarification regarding protocol for issuing these permits.

Next Commission meeting is technically April 11th, but business meeting is May 15th.

Meeting Adjourned

at 4:55 PM. Motion by Kim, Second by Dale, Unanimous approval.

Minutes approved 05-15-03

Submitted by Susan Fitzmaurice, ADA Coordinator