

CITY OF DEARBORN
The Dearborn Commission on Disability Concerns
Ford Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave, Wetrooms

Minutes
July 12, 2007, 3:00-6:00 PM

1. Call to Order: 3:10PM
2. Roll Call: All present or excused (Swagler & Swanson)
Guests: Heidi White, Cathy Tromley, and Jim Nagy
3. Additions/changes to agenda: none
4. Approval of May Minutes: Offered by Commissioner Bower, seconded Commissioner Tishler.
5. Review of Bylaws: no changes, no action required.

6. Home-coming, Tishler

Curb cut installed near carnival, free parking for commissioners, same location as last year, better shuttle ID stop signs, BP tshirts as incentives to volunteer. Commissioner Filiak will check to be sure TTY is in place. ADA Coordinator will check on designated seating for main performances, and have for the table – resource list, DAD flyer, plastic bags, pens, updated brochures, & name tags. Teddy will sell buttons when he is at table only. Commissioner Filiak will check to be sure it is OK to sell. Signup sheet circulated to volunteer at table.

7. DDAD update, McAdam

We need more vendor follow-up. Commissioner Tishler will follow-up with City clerk regarding a voting machine set-up. Discussion about raffling off the donating low-tech items.

8. Public Comment

Jim Nagy asked about Dearborn's transportation system for PwDs as unhappy with Dearborn Heights system. Commissioner McAdam will speak further with their chair Linda Butler regarding para-transit options.

9. Chair report, McAdam

- Bylaws question regarding city employees serving on the commission as officers was reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Debra Walling.

“In as much as the Commission is intended to offer citizens' perspectives to assist City government, it seems to be limiting input to have a City employee on the Commission unless it is necessary. I can also envision a potential conflict of interest if the Commission is called to make a recommendation concerning a member employee's department or anything that would generally affect City employees. If the Disability Concerns Commission's bylaws currently prohibit a City employee from holding office, I would advise against eliminating that prohibition.”

- Cheryl confirmed she will formally resign/take her name from consideration for reappointment. Although advertisements have gone out to date we have no new applications for commissioners.

- It was decided to recognize Cheryl at DAD. There are no current applications.

- Time to write the annual report. Please send brief highlights from your committees/ selves you would like included.
- Training update
 - Consider next April with Dr. Ardis as to much going on before then.
- McAdam received Moccasin Award from City Year Detroit:

“Each year we recognize outstanding community leaders whose dedication and commitment to social change has inspired City Year corps members and staff during the service year through the Moccasins Award. The Native American proverb and City Year founding story 'Oh Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my brother or sister until I have walked a mile in his or Her moccasins,' embodies the invaluable contributions of Moccasins Award recipients.”
- Public Information needs the dates we are going to have meetings.
 - It was decided to use the same schedule as usual.

10.Executive Update: Susan Fitzmaurice update Current construction, city accessibility projects, TTY training, citizen concerns.

- No current construction to be concerned with. New bus stops are in place. No update (from engineering) regarding pedestrian signals.
- Kurt informed we want DPW doors to be power doors
- TTY manual revamped. Training next 2 Thursdays.
- No citizen calls, a few vendor inquiries.
- Next week I am going to disability pride parade in Chicago, in August will be going to Lansing, Flint, Macinac, and Marquette following the AAD Freedom bus tour.

11.Break

12.Committee Reports

See below for Communication Committee. Note: Commissioner Swagler has neighborhood Association list. Communications committee will look over and approve water bill's alternative format announcement.

See below for Access Committee. Note: It was decided that we would recommend available funds would be used to make the Dunworth pool in Levagood park accessible. • Emergency Information prototype provide by ADA Coordinator discussed. Access committee will give further recommendations.

See below for Public Awareness Committee. Note: Commissioner McAdam will join committee until it has more members. U.C.P. tech fair is just before DAD, but it was decided it was different enough to not be in competition with each other. Commissioner Hodak passed around several low tech gadgets and asked us to guess what they were for. They will be used for demonstrations/awareness at DDAD.

13. DVD Freedom Machines: Delayed until after the meeting was over.
14. Commissioner reports: No one has anything further to add except Commissioner Hodak.
 - Need volunteer/s for the Senior Citizen Conference at the PAC for Wednesday, July 18 from 8-10 a.m. (1-2 volunteers) 10-12:30 p.m. (1-2 volunteers) (This is Gary Woronchak's yearly party for the Seniors AND a continental breakfast and free box lunch are included)
 - Received 24 items of assistive devices along with catalogs from Maddak, Inc: ABLEWARE.
15. Adjournment: 4:31PM People stayed on to watch a DVD provided by Commissioner McAdam on assistive technology.

Communications Committee Submitted for Dale by M. C. McAdam

There was no meeting this month, work continued by email.

1. Draft for the July 12th meeting on advertising closed captioning (CDTV). from Katie, Linda's daughter:

With the help of the Dearborn Commission on Disability Concerns, the city of Dearborn has closed captioned local broadcasts as well as audible pedestrian traffic signals to improve access for people with disabilities in the community. The three shows which will be shown in closed captioning on CDTV are Dearborn city council meetings (broadcast regularly), In 5 and the Dearborn Journal. All shows will be captioned after the taping takes place. If someone would like a program to be closed captioned on CDTV they will have to contact CDTV and/or the Dearborn commission on disability concerns.

The audible pedestrian traffic signals will be used to assist pedestrians who are blind or elderly in crossing the intersection safely. The new audible pedestrian traffic signals will be located on Michigan Avenue at Monroe, Mason, Military, Oakman, Schaefer and Sclaff and Warren Street at Chase and Schaefer.

For more information, please visit the Dearborn commission's website at <http://www.dearborn-disabilities.org/>.

2. Progress on contacting the neighborhood associations?
3. Would like to give an update on registrations/money received for Pathway to Possibilities 2007. (Was awaiting response from ADA coordinator)
4. We will begin to heavily publicize Pathway to Possibilities 2007 when Dale returns from vacation. We will do a timeline and other info for a flyer as soon as get all the pictures, workshops, etc...

Access Committee Report 6/26/07

Present: Gary Filiak, Johnny Bradford, Susan Fitzmaurice, and Cathy McAdam

- I. Rail road crossing at Gully a/2 block S. Michigan Ave.

We discussed concerns raised by Dearborn Heights Commission at our last commission meeting. Gary and Susan confirmed there is no sidewalk on the Dearborn side and that a previous decision had been made to keep it that way as it is not a residential area, and not a safe area for pedestrians. We would recommend upgrading the Beech Daly crossing to a fully accessible safe crossing and would support Dearborn Heights in that effort although this is not a Dearborn crossing. The railroad made it clear they would not support adding a new crossing as this one was so close, but they should be reapproached to be sure it is ADA accessible. Gary and Johnny agreed to look at site before the commission meeting.

II. Park update: Lapeer and Ford wood ramps being installed. Levagood new play structure this summer. Curb cut was made at Ford Field south of bridge accommodate phone and wheelchair access at home coming. Susan was asked to update accessible park information on our web site. John goes to Levagood park and will also review access issues re pool, locker rooms and restrooms.

III. Voting: Gary volunteer to help Sonya coordinate material for a summer meeting with Jerry Uchtorff, the ADA representative for the Dearborn schools. We discussed having him come to our next commission meeting if materials are ready, if not, we will schedule a smaller meeting to update this info regarding the school voting access sites.

IV. Emergency Prep: We reviewed the information being used by Dearborn Heights to collect voluntary information re emergency preparedness. Cathy recommended taking out question regarding infectious disease as universal precautions should be used, and this is medical information that could be confidential. She will also work on some rephrasing of disability language to prepare for review by Lt. Smith.

V. Other: Gary is on the home coming committee and noted the importance of reconnecting regarding a TTY set up on that day. The city did not provide this connection during the Arab Fest.

Sonya circulated a sign up sheet via email. We will bring it to the July meeting to request assistance for homecoming.

Email feed back from John regarding after our meeting on Tuesday, as I promised, I checked out two items on our Access List.

#1 was Accessibility at Levagood Park, specifically the famed Dunworth Pools. My wife and I spoke to a lifeguard. Apparently, there are two side entrances

that can be used by those in wheelchairs. There are at least 5 handicapped parking spots right next to the entrance. I was told that even if these entrances are closed, that those in need can go to the main entrance and will be let in thru a side door. (They seem to be aware that they have to be accountable, which is a good thing to see.)

Entrance to the locker rooms and the showers is not a problem, as they are one and the same, and have wide aisles. I did point out that the shower on/off handles were too high up to be reached. I was told that "anybody needing assistance will be provided it" if they call ahead." Sounds acceptable.

I did note that the men's restrooms do not have wheelchair accessible entrances. I would consider that a violation of the ADA, because, frankly, if I'm in a wheelchair, I would rather be able to relieve myself without any help---if at all possible.

My wife reports the same situation in the woman's locker room. No wheelchair access to the restrooms.

It also seemed that the drinking fountains were positioned too high up. (There may be others that I did not see that are lower.)

My family then went to the controversial railroad crossing on Gully Road. As Gary noted, there is a concrete sidewalk on the right side (heading South) that ends a few feet before reaching the rail tracks. There is NO sidewalk on the left. I understand the the railways do NOT want people crossing at this area. I tend to agree

that due to the area itself, even for somebody in a car, this can be a very dangerous crossing. I do not have any solutions at this time.

Public Awareness / Education Committee meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2007 - 6:00 pm at Dearborn Schools Administration Offices

Present: Nancy and (new member) Sandy Koppinger

1. a. New member, Sandy introduced herself and discussed her concerns for the Commission. She was given a copy of the Strategic plan for the Education Committee, which was discussed so that she could gain insight as to the tasks of this committee.
- b. No old business
2. Service Clubs
 - a. Discussed contacting Dearborn Services Clubs, as Cheryl completed her letter for the Presidents. Further action will be taken pending a decision by Cheryl regarding her availability to the Commission.
3. Volunteers for review of Commission Information Sheet
 - a. Cathy had volunteered at an earlier meeting - will revisit this with her
 - b. Other volunteers still needed
4. Disability Awareness Day - "Let's Make a World More Accessible for You"
 - a. Planning for assistive items - Mary and Cathy visited Binson's for information and continue to gather devices. Cathy will contact occupational therapists at WSU for workshop
 - b. Fashion show - Nancy is having difficulty finding local resources
Currently seeking assistance from school of design at WSU. Sandy suggested including clothing items for those who have chemical sensitivities. Suggestions Welcome!
5. Thoughts and Suggestions
Sandy discussed her thoughts and suggestions about offering greater public awareness of the Commission's work.

Next Meeting not scheduled

DRAFT – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FORM

LAST NAME _____ **FIRST NAME** _____

ADDRESS _____ Apartment, unit #: _____

Nearest cross street _____ Email: _____

PHONE _____ Work: _____

Cell/ other: _____ Are these phones TTY/text? __yes

Primary language(s) spoken: __ English __ Arabic __ Spanish or _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Are there people with disabilities or seniors needing assistance at this location? If yes, please check all items that are applicable to the person named above. **Please fill out one form for each individual.**

- ___ Physical disability/mobility impairment
- ___ Walk with assistance ___ cane ___ walker ___ wheelchair ___ scooter
- ___ Hard of hearing or Deaf ___ Do you use sign language only?
- ___ Blind/visually impaired ___ Do you wear glasses?
- ___ Intellectual or cognitive impairment
- ___ Service animal? If yes, type of animal _____ name _____
- ___ Speech impairment ___ Do you use a augmented speech device?
- ___ Allergies, please list _____
- ___ Cannot leave bed unassisted
- ___ Medical Equipment needed _____
- ___ Medication needed _____
- ___ There is more information that may be important written on the back.
- ___ There are names of other people on back who also have a form on file.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: Dearborn Police/fire Department
Attention: Lt. Smith Home Land Security or Email to:

Providing this information is voluntary and confidential. It will be used only to assist you In case of an emergency when services are sent to your home.