

**Dearborn Commission on Disability Concerns
Minutes July 14, 2005**

1. Our meeting was preceded by a wonderful ice cream social prepared by Commissioner Hodak. We were joined by our new commissioners, Senior Commission commissioners, and new members of our committees.

2. Call to Order: 3:07PM

3. Roll Call

4. Additions/changes to agenda. It was decided after a brief discussion that due to the absense of Commissioner Kreger, and the new appointments of 3 commissioners, the election would be delayed until September.

MOTION: Commissioner Swanson: I motion that yearly elections be held after the appointment in June and before the end of the year. Seconded by Commissioner Bower, Unanimous approval.

5. June Minutes approved with no changes.

6. Election: chair, vice chair- cancelled.

7. Update Michigan Ave. Project. ADA Coordinator included details in her ADA Report. Chair McAdam discussed the concern that the proposal that the current project be closed out as is and that a new project be entered into to make needed changes for safety and ADA compliance.

8. Update re senior commission activities. The chair of the senior commission introduced himself and other commissioners. They discussed their social and political activities. They keep themselves very busy and hope to have the opportunity to work with us more often.

9. Executive Update

ADA Report, July, 2005 D Susan Fitzmaurice

1. **Construction.** There were minutes of the first Michigan avenue project post-construction meeting distributed to meeting participants for approval, but the final (public) minutes have not been received. No next meeting date has been decided. (See above)

There was discussion of this problem at length. It was decided that Chair McAdam would write a letter to the various entities involved stating the commissions concerns thta this project will be completed and the safety of DearbornOs citizens will still be of concern. She will also plan to attend the next Michigan Avenue Project meeting with

the ADA Coordinator.

2. **Voting.** The grants for HAVA funding for the needed changes for polling sites have been submitted. Most of the money requested was for signage and ramps. Money was not requested for the cost of striping parking lots or cutting curb cuts as these are in house expenses that are unlikely to have been funded. A \$1,500 permanent ramp was requested for the Ford school front entrance to be an addition to the noncompliant truck delivery ramp going into the cafeteria. Another is for a ramp for a school with a small 2-step entry. The signs are for door bell signs that are places at accessible entrances without automatic doors that are too remote from the polling location to be monitored by the poll workers.

It was discussed and decided that the Access Committee would begin to make plans as to how they would be evaluating access issues voters actually encounter when they vote. This is the second stage of the HAVA process - not physical access as much as attitudinal access.

3. **Block Grant Funds.** The 3 grants have been received. There was a first meeting just before the commission meeting to clarify the procedure to utilize these funds. There are special bidding procedures necessary to follow that are different than using city general funds or transition funds.

The grant that was not approved for the conference room was discussed and it was agreed that the ADA Coordinator should make plans to use funds set aside for ADA projects to follow through on that grant's proposal.

4. **Showcase Theatre.** The theatre provided the fire department with the plan to place the permanent companion seating and felt the space was too constricted to be safe. So the fire department reversed their opinion, and decided in order for the theatre to be ADA compliant folding chairs would be permitted in the wheel chair seating area only.

5. **Bailey's** - no more information at this time.

There was discussion as to why this continues to be a problem. What is the procedure when a business continues to violate a building code? Chair McAdam will write a note expressing the concern of the commission that Bailey's is allowed to continue to violate the ADA.

6. **Budget.** The 2004-2005 fiscal year is over. The special events (276) account was carried forward to the 2005-2006 fiscal year. It currently has \$3,700. DPW is contributing \$1,000 from its budget to the 276 account. Next Monday I will get an accounting on this past year. I will find out what we have been budgeted this year.

7. **Inclusive Home Design bill.** I have enclosed a copy of the bill before congress that is looking from community organizations to sign onto.

8. **Disability Film festival.** The disability film festival is going to be on October 21 at the Ford Motor Convention Center across from Greenfield Village.

Ê10. Chair Report - Cathy McAdam 7/14/05

1. **Welcome new commissioners:** Ideas for orientation

Chair McAdam expressed her excitement at the vitality of the new commissioners. There was a discussion of when and who would do an orientation of new commissioners. Commissioner Bower agreed to help as did Commissioners Hodak & Tishler.

2. **Calendar for 2005/2006** to consider more evening times.

There was a lot of discussion around the time of meetings. There are strong views for and against various times. In the end it was agreed that if the afternoon meetings were delayed by one hour that would ease the ability of people who have to leave work early to miss less work, but still not end too late. The same schedule as last year with the change in start time from 2 to 3 was agreed to.

3. **Committees:** request to meet quarterly with written reports and to actively recruit new members. Final announcement re: committee chairs will be made in September.

4. **Block grant follow-up:** We will want to work closely with the ADA coordinator to implement these grants both through individual consultation and committee input. It will be very important to look at ways to publicize and educate Dearborn citizens about improved access.

5. **Novi Expo.** Volunteers are needed to help man the table.

Commissioner Hodak will set-up on Friday and work Sunday morning. Chair McAdam will handle Saturday. Our ADA Coordinator lives nearby and can visit periodically to check on supplies. Since people love to pick things up, this was a time we decided we could put out all the things we have available unlike homecoming where the interest is different.

11. **Public Comment**

Ndieh Aun spoke briefly about her excitement to be involved with us and her concern around issues of education. She mentioned how she felt the Arabic community often did not have the same access to information that other families had regarding special education services.

12. **Home coming - Sonya Tishler**

Commissioner Tishler laid out the final plans for homecoming. Commissioner Filiak will set-up. There was a discussion of what items to put out on the table and it was agreed to keep it to Commission brochures, What's In a Name, Ford

Mobility Flyers, Film Festival flyers, and of course DAD information.

13. DDAD Town Hall 2005: Update/logistics - Dale Swanson & Cheryl Kreger

Reports Attached to Minutes

ADA Report, July, 2005 – Susan Fitzmaurice

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INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT OF 2005

WHEREAS, the U.S. 2000 Census indicates that approximately 20 percent of the American population has a disability, and that by 2030 there will be over 70 million seniors; and

WHEREAS, with the population aging and the likelihood of developing a disability or other mobility limitations increasing with age, the growth in the number of people with disabilities can be expected to rise dramatically; and
WHEREAS, only five percent of new single family homes and town homes built with federal assistance require any access features that make it possible for people with disabilities to live or visit; and

WHEREAS, visitability is an inclusive design approach that integrates a limited number of crucial accessibility features, such as no step entries, doorways with 32' clear passage space and at least one accessible bathroom into newly built homes; and

WHEREAS, visitability features would allow seniors to stay in their homes longer and people with disabilities to visit friends and families in their homes, thereby enhancing quality of life and community living; and

WHEREAS, numerous municipalities and states across the country, including Chicago, Naperville, Bolingbrook and Urbana, Illinois; Atlanta, Georgia; Pima County, Arizona, Vermont, Texas and Kansas have adopted visitability standards in their building codes; and

WHEREAS, the Inclusive Home Design Act of 2005 would require all newly constructed single family homes and town houses receiving federal funds to meet basic visitability features; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the independence of persons with disabilities and seniors by promoting the concept of including visitability standards to increase access to the homes of friends, family and neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports local and state initiatives to promote visitable housing and urges Congress to enact H.R. 1441, the Inclusive Home Design Act of 2005.

Co-sponsors of the Inclusive Home Design Act in the 109th Congress: Reps. Baldwin, Bordallo, Carson, Christensen, D. Davis, Farr, Grijalva, Gutierrez, Jackson-Lee, Kildee, Lantos, Lee, Moore, Moran, Owens, Pallone, Rangel,

Slaughter, Watson, and Woolsey.

Organizations in Support include:

National:

- * Concrete Change
- * National Council on Disability
- * National Fair Housing Alliance
- * Paralyzed Veterans of America
- * United Spinal Association
- * Congress for the New Urbanism

State:

- * Center for Independent Living Center of Jasper, Alabama
- * Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
- * Homeownership Coalition for People with Disabilities
- * Illinois/Iowa Center For Independent Living
- * The Illinois Spina Bifida Association
- * Maryland ADAPT

Local:

- * The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
- * Access to Independence, Inc.
- * Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, Michigan
- * Chicago Rehab Network
- * Center for Disability Rights, Inc
- * Central Utah Center for Independent Living
- * Citizens' Disability Council
- * Disability Resource Center, Michigan
- * Finger Lakes Independence Center
- * Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living
- * Indianapolis Resource Center for Independent Living
- * Midstate Independent Living Consultants, Inc.
- * New Horizons Advocacy Center for Independent Living
- * Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
- * Options Center for Independent Living
- * Ozark Independent Living
- * Pima Council on Aging
- * Progress Center for Independent Living
- * Regional Access & Mobilization Project, Inc.
- * Three Rivers, Inc.
- * Topeka Independent Living Resource Center
- * Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc