

Minutes

Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities November 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Margot Imdieke Cross at 4:35 p.m. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Committee has quorum with 9 of its 14 members present.

**Members Present: Dorothy Balen, James Farstad, Michael Foster, Martha Hage, Margot Imdieke Cross, Georganne Krause, Lee Perish, Ken Rodgers, Keith Swanson
Members Absent: Ken Brown, Mike Patrick, Jim Ramnaraine, Bonnie Jean Smith, Joan Willshire**

Members Excused:

**Guests: Council Member Quincy, Ward 11
Clara Schmit-Gonzalez, Licensing/Parking Traffic
David Rubedor, Director Neighborhood and Community Relations
Toby Broadrick, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Peter Rickmeyer**

Staff Present: Ruth Kildow, Becky McIntosh, Kim Stringfellow

Interpreters: Bridget Sabatke and Mary Catherine

Council Member John Quincy, Ward 11

Ward 11, located in the South Central part of Minneapolis, includes nine neighborhoods: Tangletown, Field, Page, Hale, Northrop, Diamond Lake, Wenonah, Windom, and Kingfield. Recent activities include the continuing effort to redevelop the old Northrup School/North Neighborhood School, and the 46th Ave Bus Rapid Transit Station. The Northrup School, having been given up by the school district several years ago, will be torn down, because of no historical value, and redeveloped. After much neighborhood support and community engagement, and recent approval by Zoning & Planning Commission, this redevelopment project will provide for 107 apartments, with half of the units being designated for assisted living, and the other half being sold as co-op units. To be named the Applewood Senior Housing Development, this property will be developed by United Properties. The Bus Rapid Transit Station, being the model for Metro Transit System, will provide to be environmentally friendly with heating and air geothermal wells, and equipped with an elevator, escalator and bike storage. Committee members voiced unresolved issues of sidewalk bump-outs and cut-throughs. Keith Swanson will contact Council Member Quincy regarding access on the SW corner sidewalk. Other issues to be addressed include obstacles created by landscaping and greening activities; audible signals and transition of light change at intersections on both sides of bridge. The MACOPD/ Access subcommittee would like to review the City's plans to resolve these issues, which won't be put into place until Spring 2011. Also check with Anna Flintoft for feedback from the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Ward 11 has a monthly newsletter available electronically (PDF) or by mail, and a Coffee Hour. MACOPD asked if accessibility

language will be included on all public notices. Council Member Quincy will check on the policy.

Clara Schmit-Gonzalez, Acting Manager for Minneapolis Traffic Control

Clara Schmit-Gonzalez was present to address the issue of high number of tickets being dismissed and seeking support from the committee by either a motion or statement.

Current MN Statute 169.346 states that if a vehicle is tagged for not displaying a current certificate or displaying an expired certificate, upon providing proof at the time of court the ticket would be dismissed, which accounts for approximately 90% of tickets issued.

The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office has concluded they do not want to be involved in enforcing expired certificates. Clara will research how other jurisdictions handle this.

Motion: Committee fully supports the concept, and asks now that the department conduct further research and specific language options.

Georganne Krause moved the motion, seconded by James Farstad.

Discussion included specifying more clearly that ownership of an expired certificate and ownership of valid certificate be of the same person, and expired certificate older than 90 days could no longer be used as documentation of disability, or recommend to the court administration the appropriate enforcement of an expired certificate at that time. It was also recommended to seek assistance from state level. Vote concluded all in favor, with none opposed and none abstaining.

May recommend change to motion depending on research information provided. Clara will provide an update at the December 15 MACOPD meeting.

Neighborhood and Community Relations

David Rubedor, Director

- **Community Participation Program is going to City Council on November 18. The program previously stated each neighborhood organization will have an ADA Plan in place. This has been revised to state that the City will additionally review ADA Plans to ensure compliance, with the expectation that plans should be exceeding minimum requirements. This has been a major community engagement project, with all council members in support of. Ahmed Muhumud is developing a sample ADA Plan for the neighborhood organizations, and will spend time providing education when holding meetings. David will have the best plan available in March, 2011. There are 71 neighborhood organizations.**
- **Minneapolis Department Liaisons: With a total of 18 departments, two departments remain without ADA liaison designation – 311 and Police. Some departments, such as Public Works, have committed 2-3 liaisons. While no date has been scheduled, it is hoped to have a network of department liaisons up and running by end of November. James Farstad requested, with committee members in agreement, a copy of the following items: 1) sample ADA Plan for neighborhoods, and outcome of education program; 2) role definitions for department liaisons, and ADA Coordinator; 3) Names and email contact of each department liaison, and outline of their training program to include ADA updates and new communication law.**

- David requested that committee members inform NCR staff of accessibility issues at community meetings.
- Billie Imhoede will provide an update on the Skype service at a later meeting. Committee member commented it's foolish to do testing without involving deaf community and we have the greatest resources. Lee Perish knows people who can access Skype and she will work with Billie on accessibility of equipment.
- Employee Affirmative Action: Committee questioned if the City is gathering this information. This is a voluntary survey of the City's workforce, currently at about 5% with the goal of 8%. Hassan Salami, Human Resources, will be invited to a future meeting for continued discussion.

Committee Concerns to NCR

- City Council public meeting notifications do not contain accessibility language, and they need to be educated. If Ahmed is not doing this then MACOPD will assume the role.
- Lee Perish reported the election site at 2121 S 9th Street (Seward Square Apartments) was not ADA compliant. David Rubedor stated this issue of ADA non-compliance at elections sites, along with the lack of ADA language on public notices from council members, both supported by the City Clerks Office, does fall within Ahmed's responsibilities. David will follow-up on these issues with the City Clerks Office and Margot requested to be copied on the communication. Margot would like to invite the Director of Elections Division to the December 15 meeting. Other members commented that their election sites seemed to be well educated and did everything correctly. While this may have been an isolated incident, this election site was still out of compliance.
- Ahmed to send out press release regarding sidewalk snow removal. The current snow emergency recording is no longer reminding residents about Minneapolis ordinance requiring sidewalks to be cleared within 24 hours after end of snowfall. David Rubedor will follow-up with Mike Kennedy regarding the recording, and have Ahmed contact Margot to set up the press release.
- Plan for Billie's certification? Billie will take the test very soon, either December or January. The results may take up to six months to be returned. NCR is paying for the test.
- Guest Peter Rickmeyer shared concern that walkways in city parking ramps are 1-2" off the ground, specifically noted at the 5th Street garage. David will have Ahmed look into this issue, and will send to Public Works to review.
- Lee Perish will contact Tilahun Hailu, Public Works Traffic and Parking, 612-673-5809, regarding removal of signage of disability spaces from previous place of employment.

Toby Broadrick, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Update

- Falls Four All – Margot Imdieke Cross was the poster child at the Minnehaha Falls Playground event held on October 23. Toby will follow-up at the December 15 meeting how much funding was raised. Additionally, Theo Wirth has an accessible playground, and the Wabun Picnic Shelter will need another \$300k to complete.

- **MPRB new superintendent, Jayne Miller, will begin meeting with her staff tomorrow, and will meet with Toby and three other assistant-superintendents to discuss ADA requirements. Will ask Toby next month about inviting Jayne to a future meeting.**

Approval of September 15, 2010 Minutes and November 17, 2010 Agenda

After discussion of Ken Rodgers motion of the September 15 meeting and proposed revisions, it was motioned by Martha Hage to move this issue to the December 15 meeting, seconded by Dorothy Balen. Dorothy Balen motioned to approve the September 15, 2010 minutes, and seconded by Ken Rodgers to approve as distributed and table the issue of revising the September motion and letter to MDHFS regarding the move of the Senior Ombudsman Office until Margot has completed the ADA audit of the Public Service Center. Ken will redraft the letter to include audit findings and submit to membership prior to the December 15 meeting.

Ken Rodgers motioned to approve the November 17, 2010 agenda, seconded by James Farstad. No further discussion.

Old/New Business

- 1. Margot Imdieke Cross will do an Accessibility audit on the Public Service Center before the December 15 meeting. Other committee members to assist are Dorothy Balen, Martha Hage, and Michael Foster. Margot will schedule the date/time and communicate with members.**
- 2. Fire Evacuation Update. A fire drill was held in City Hall on October 5, in which several MACOPD members participated in order to test the evacuation process. As discussed at the “after evacuation” meeting was the two designated refuge areas, each with a 2-hour limit to shelter in place. MACOPD members continue to have problem with going “into” the building when the natural reaction is to head towards building exits. Discussed making Room 132 City Hall into an additional refuge area. It would be minimal or low cost to change the door and make a few other modifications. With committee members support, the following motion was made:
Motion: The Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities strongly supports the conversion of Conference Room 132 City Hall into a designated refuge or shelter in place area for people with disabilities; this becoming the primary area of refuge, with the two existing refuge areas to be considered as alternate shelters.
Georganne Krause moved the motion, seconded by Keith Swanson.**
- 3. Michael Patrick is still in the hospital. We will get a card to pass around.**
- 4. Margot Imdieke Cross will talk with Ahmed Muhumud about having a polycom available at every meeting for members who want to participate in the meeting and are unable to attend in person, and determine who will make it available, NCR or MDHFS?**

Subcommittee Reports

Executive Committee

- **No report.**

Access

- **Ongoing meeting dates selected as 2nd and 4th Thursday each month from 4:00-6:00 pm in Room 132. Kim will confirm availability of Room 132.**
- **Patrick's Cabaret. Save them in your memory for consideration of next Access Award for disabled artists and performers.**
- **VSA. Michael Foster will forward John's email to the committee.**

Finance

- **No report.**

Communication

- **No report.**

Emergency Preparedness

- **Moving forward with video for 1st Responders. At last meeting had EMS, MPD and MFD representatives in attendance. Had a great discussion and the plan is taking shape. Next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2nd Tuesday of the month, Room 132 5:00-6:30 pm. An educational tri-fold brochure is being developed for 1st Responders to carry with them.**

Strategic Planning

- **The Strategic Planning Process will be distributed to committee members after initial review by Margot Imdieke Cross and Jim Ramnaraine.**
- **Links will be added and organized into categories.**
- **Subcommittee to meet from every 3rd Wednesday, directly preceding the full committee meeting, from 3:15-4:30 pm in Room 132 City Hall, beginning on December 15. Subcommittee members include James Farstad, Dorothy Balen, Martha Hage, Margot Imdieke Cross, Keith Swanson, Ken Rodgers.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Next Meetings

Access: December 9, 23, 4:00-6:00 pm, Room 132 City Hall

Emergency Preparedness: December 14, 5:00-6:30 pm, Room 132 City Hall

Strategic Planning: December 15, 3:15-4:30 pm, Room 132 City Hall

Full Committee: December 15, 2010, 4:30-6:30 pm, Room 132 City Hall. *

(Members decided to forego ordering pizza at the December 15 full meeting and members will bring holiday treats to share instead.)

Meeting minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow.