

Minutes
Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
September 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Margot Imdieke Cross at 4:32 p.m. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Committee has quorum with 9 of its 14 members present.

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

Members Excused:

Guests: Council Member Schiff, Ward 9

Tim Drew, Public Works Transportation

Ahmed Muhumud, Access and Outreach Manager, Neighborhood and Community Relations

Billie Imhoede, Access and Outreach Specialist, ASL Interpreter, Neighborhood and Community Relations

Toby Broadrick, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Staff Present: Ruth Kildow, Becky McIntosh, Kim Stringfellow

Interpreters: Bridget Sabatke and Mary Catherine

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Michael Foster motioned to approve the September 15, 2010 agenda, seconded by Ken Brown. Ken Rodgers motioned to approve the July 21, 2010 minutes, seconded by Dorothy Balen. Ken Rodgers motioned to approve the August 18, 2010 minutes, seconded by Dorothy Balen. September agenda and July minutes approved by all, with no discussion following. Lee Perish did not receive the August minutes and therefore abstained from voting.

Tim Drew, Public Works Transportation

Tim Drew distributed a handout of the street design on 1st Ave N, before changes and after changes. October 2009 changes include going from a one-way to a two-way design, with most recent changes including a 2' buffer between bike lane and driving/parking lane. Tim also consulted with traffic control and vehicles should not be tagged if parking on the buffer zone, and may be tagged if parking exceeds buffer zone into the bike lane. Margot Imdieke Cross requested signage at intervals where people would see it. Dorothy Balen requested signage to indicate 4 hour limit handicapped parking. Margot has referred this issue to the Access Committee, who will contact Tim Drew with calendar, along with a representative from the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Council Member Gary Schiff, Ward 9

Council Member Schiff, after hearing about the parking issues on 1st Ave N, stated the Bicycle Advisory Committee is unique in that it is made up of whoever attends. Council Member Cam Gordon is trying to establish membership as a defined board, and include representation from Met Council. MACOPD would like to see designated accessible parking instead of being limited to meters. Margot asked if any members interested in participating on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Ward 9 neighborhoods are Corcoran, Longfellow, Phillips, Powderhorn Park, and Standish. Activities in Ward 9 include affordable housing for homeless people living with HIV and Aids (Midtown) and senior living on 38th St & 20th Ave.; Alliance for Seniors housing, all of which will be wheelchair accessible and have elevators; and senior apartment buildings, one on the east side and one under construction for the American Indian Elders. Ken Brown will attend the public hearings with the Planning Commission to address the zoning codes. Council Member Schiff would like MACOPD input on use of tasers in Minneapolis.

Neighborhood and Community Relations

Ahmed Muhumud, Manager Access and Outreach

- **Ahmed Muhumud and David Rubedor have met with 10-12 of the 18 department heads regarding ADA. Each department will designate at least one ADA Liaison, with Public Works designating more than one because of its many divisions. Ruth Kildow has been named the ADA Liaison for MDHFS. Departments are committed to conducting self evaluations. Ahmed will create a schedule to conduct within business plan cycles, train liaisons, and develop tools for departments to use. The business plans will also reflect ADA Title II compliance, as many departments have acknowledged the need. NCR, being held accountable, will work with departments to meet compliance.**
- **In 2011 neighborhood organizations will also be required to have an ADA Plan included in their application process. NCR will continue to work with neighborhood organizations, and make available resources such as checklists, meeting access, alternative format, etc., especially when using City funds. MACOPD, being subject matter experts, will provide training that was given to the Access and Outreach staff**

Billie Imhoede, Access and Outreach Specialist, ASL Interpreter

- **Billie launched the Skype video phone, to be a 60-90 day project and will track data of effectiveness. Margot Imdieke Cross asked committee member Lee Perish to try this out.**

Toby Broadrick, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Update

- **Twins partnership with Courage Center – “Pepsi Refresh.” There were 14 major league baseball teams that participated, with Minnesota Twins winning a \$200k grant received by the Courage Center from Pepsi. Grant will help to build a wheelchair accessible baseball diamond field and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is looking for a location.**

- **Park Board management structure has been torn apart. Before there were three different districts, now there is one strict superintendent model. This was done as a financial move to prepare for 2011.**
- **Follow-up on accessible restrooms at Powderhorn Park. On the weekends all restrooms inside park buildings and outside are locked. This is either a health department statute or a park policy; if pools are open then restrooms are open. Concern from committee is that outdoor facilities are not accessible. Toby will look into this further, with the committee recommendation that when outdoor facilities are open they also have accessible facilities available, along with portable sinks.**
- **Lee received a blank postcard from MPRB and wanted to know what it was about. Toby asked Lee to bring it to one of the meetings.**
- **Falls Four All – fully accessible playground to be located at Minnehaha Park, which already has accessible parking. Margot will be the honoree at the event to be held on October 23 in Minnetonka. Toby will bring more information regarding the event to the October 20 MACOPD meeting.**

Subcommittee Reports

Executive Committee

- **No report.**

Access

- **Will do review on Shubert, Orchestra Hall, Greenway, Fortwill Flats, Elder Community Center. Ken Brown will schedule meetings.**

Finance

- **\$1,258.18 after receiving donation from MDHFS.**

Communication

- **Michael Foster will do a count of absentees.**

Emergency Preparedness

- **Plan to produce video for first responders on people with disabilities.**
- **Will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday each month from 5:00-6:15 pm.**
- **Fire drill in City Hall on October 5 at 2:00 pm, plan to meet in Room 132 City Hall at 1:30 pm. Ken Rodgers will send a note to everyone, and plan to exchange your cell phone #'s in order to communicate during drill.**

Strategic Planning

- **First meeting scheduled for September 21 in Room 132 City Hall. Four members so far have volunteered to participate.**

Old/New Business

- 1. Ken Rodgers will brief the committee on his Washington DC trip at the September meeting – to be moved to a later meeting.**
- 2. October reception cancelled for 2010 in order to have strategic planning meeting and develop 5-year vision instead, to re-organize and strategize. Motioned by Ken Rodgers, and seconded by Dorothy Balen, approved by all. Ruth Kildow will cancel the Rotunda reservation and reschedule Room 132 City Hall. This meeting will be for members only.**

3. **Relocation of Senior Ombudsman Office to Room 510, Public Service Center. Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning and Administration, and recently taken over supervision of Senior Ombudsman Office, provided handout detailing the Senior Ombudsman Office relocation. Discussion included the following:**
- **Only accessible restroom in the PSC is located on 3rd Floor. Request for additional accessible facilities in PSC. Also look at other accessibility issues in PSC.**
 - **Concern regarding volunteers and senior aides in Ruth's current office location. MDHFS has one senior aide who worked at the reception desk. Space in the department is at capacity and there is no workload to support additional senior aides or volunteers.**
 - **Decision to move Ruth's Senior Ombudsman Office to PSC was made by Gretchen Musicant and Becky McIntosh. This relocation will allow Ruth to focus on her job, and give support needed for answering telephone, clerical support, May We Help You by using MDHFS staff support team that is already developed.**
 - **Ken Brown stated a year and a half ago the department could not longer afford Ruth's own support staff, and gave her time to operate with use of volunteers.**
 - **Recommendation for Access Committee to do an accessibility inspection of PSC.**
 - **Dorothy Balen, going on record, is very upset and shouldn't move office to a non-accessible building. Everything should be in place [accessibility] before moving Senior Ombudsman Office to PSC.**
 - **Ken Brown stated there is one person to serve seniors and disability community, and other programs (ex: Youth Violence) have tons of staff.**

Ken Rodgers made the following motion, which was seconded by Dorothy Balen:

Being vehemently against the abrupt move of the Senior Ombudsman Office, until a complete accessibility audit can be done on the facility, and MDHFS can allay to MACOPD there are no issues to be concerned about, this move on Friday September 17 will be in full disregard and displeasure of this advisory committee. MDHFS is putting disabilities on the back burner.

Vote: all approve by voice vote, none abstained, no further discussion. Ken Rodgers agreed to revisit the motion.

Becky McIntosh will discuss with Gretchen Musicant tomorrow; will look at restrooms and welcome an access audit. It may not be feasible to halt the move, and we need to make sure it [PSC] is accessible. Lee Perish wants at least one unisex restroom. The PSC 3rd Floor has a family/unisex restroom available until 6:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Becky will inform Margot after meeting with Gretchen.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm, motioned by Dorothy Balen and seconded by Martha Hage.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 20, 2010 from 4:30-6:30 p.m, Room 132 City Hall.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow.