

Minutes
Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
February 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Margot Imdieke Cross at 4:36 p.m. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Committee has quorum with 10 of its 11 members present.

Members Present: Dorothy Balen, James Farstad, Michael Foster, Martha Hage, Margot Imdieke Cross, Georganne Krause, Lee Perish, Ken Rodgers, Keith Swanson, Joan Willshire

Members Absent: Bonnie Jean Smith

Members Excused:

Guests: Council Member Gordon, Ward 2

Carol Strong, Program Assistant, Elections/Office of the City Clerk

Dani Connors-Smith, Program Assistant, Elections/Office of the City Clerk

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

Ken Brown, former committee member

Staff Present: Ruth Kildow, Becky McIntosh, Kim Stringfellow

Interpreters: Bridget Sabatke and Mary Catherine

Approval of January 19, 2011 Minutes and February 16, 2011 Agenda

Ken Rodgers motioned to approve the February 16, 2011 agenda, seconded by Martha Hage. With no discussion and all approved, the motion was carried.

James Farstad motioned to approve the January 19, 2011 minutes, seconded by Dorothy Balen. Discussion includes changes to the interpreters present, removing Mary Catherine and adding Ruth Boetcatr; change to motion by Ken Rodgers to state a summary of action items, along with the name of person responsible for action, to be listed separately at the end of the minutes; and Margot Imdieke Cross commented that she does not generally make or second a motion, with Martha Hage confirming Margot had seconded a motion. With no further discussion, and all approved, the motion was carried. Michael Foster was absent during the January meeting and therefore abstained from voting.

Carol Strong and Dani Connors-Smith, Elections/Office of the City Clerk

Carol Strong and Dani Connors-Smith, both Election Judge Coordinators, were present to address the complaints for polling site Seward Square Apartments. Complaints included no building entrance signage, a broken automark, elections staff unwilling to communicate with Lee Perish in writing when she had requested it, and the lower access booth was being used by individual not using a wheelchair thereby making that booth

unavailable to Lee. Margot Indieke Cross asked Elections staff for assurance that these violations will not happen again in the future. Carol Strong expressed their shared concern for the mistakes and poor judgment of the polling site staff and these issues have been documented and addressed through a performance management system. Each polling site has an incident log and there is a phone bank and support group who maintain these records, along with detailed call information, and how they are resolved. There are 131 polling sites in Minneapolis, with 1,500-2,200 trained election judges. Ken Rodgers cited an additional issue of the automark machine facing the wrong direction, allowing everyone to see his ballot.

Motion by Ken Rodgers, and seconded by Georganne Krause.

Move that Minneapolis Elections Officials responsible for Minneapolis polling places work with the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities to do two specific things: 1) prior to training for election judges review content of trainings with this committee or its representatives and include members in the training if possible; and 2) provide a summary report of the disability related incidences, and their resolution, that occurred that day.

Following a short discussion, all approved, and the motion was carried.

Committee thought it would be good to have someone from the MACOPD committee give a testimony at their election judge training, or show a 3-min video. They were asked to return to the committee when they are setting up their next training. There are no scheduled elections for 2011.

Council Member Cam Gordon, Ward 2

Ward 2 neighborhoods include SE Como, Cooper, Prospect Park, Seward and West Bank/Cedar-Riverside. City issues include budget, property tax and pension obligations, with the Target Center being a “big ticket” item costing the city \$12 million/year. On the positive side, the Homegrown Project has increased local and fresh food, and more options for people to grow, process and sell fresh food in the city. Recycling Ordinance is for residents only, and not businesses, and at this time is still legal to throw recycling in the garbage. Ward 2 will be participating in a 2-sort system pilot. Margot requested that residents and business be reminded to shovel and widen curb ramps now that the snow is thawing.

Neighborhood and Community Relations

Ahmed Muhumud, Manager Access and Outreach

- Ahmed continues to work on the language block/statement, and will forward to Martha Hage, Ken Rodgers and James Farstad for review.
- On February 11 training of ADA Liaisons happened for 11 of the 12 departments. Ahmed will follow-up with those who did not attend.
- There has been a focus on 311 operators and need for training in greater detail, especially on the difference between Title I and Title II.
- Currently working with James Farstad on the website which should be up and running within next 1-2 months. Ahmed requested the committee’s feedback/input regarding the January meeting handouts and emailed information.

- Continue to work with CPP Program to provide alternative format language. Also may be able to purchase an assisted listening device and encourage use at public meetings. **Billie Imhoede, Access and Outreach Specialist, ASL Interpreter**
- Received testing confirmation for April 14.
- Still advertising for someone from the deaf community to assist with testing Skype. No takers yet, and only need someone to communicate with. **Kim Stringfellow** offered to test it with **Billie** within the next week.

Toby Broadrick, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – Update

- **ADA training for Parks has been completed for half of the staff, and finds that using the word “discrimination” and talking about equal opportunity versus compliance seems to “hit home” with his audience.**
- **Access audits are due by March 2013, with an 18 month timeline to get the first round completed. There are 49 community centers (park buildings) in approximately 157 parks.**
- **Toby suggested using the Justin Dart puppet in the Powderhorn Park May Day Parade. Michael Foster will contact Heart of the Beast asking if Justin Dart puppet can be included.**
- **Within the next two months, Toby would like to bring his 4-month old golden retriever to a committee meeting as part of socializing him into different communities. No one opposed.**

Old/New Business

1. Hennepin County ADA Program Access and Transition Plan

- **Lee Perish commented on the Hennepin County Open House flyer that does not have alternative format language included. It was indicated that the flyer has been updated to include the language, has been resent to all and updated on their website.**
- **The ADA Access and Transition Plan includes sidewalk scoring and is using PROWAG as its standard. Margot Imdieke Cross is requesting comments by March 31. Ken Rodgers has read the transition plan and it seems that “public involvement” means making decisions without outside or community input and later having an open house to let the public know their plan. People with disabilities need to be at the table, at the beginning, at all phases, helping to plan and make decisions. Ken discussed with Pete Lemke and others, they understand the full need, and have committed to redoing 7,000 curb cuts (no diagonal). Ken will attend other open house sessions.**
- **Martha Hage talked about Lake Street. It’s very good for them to hear problems from people with disabilities. They will be working West beyond Lyndale, to Lake and Hennepin. Margot Imdieke Cross stressed to members to be inquisitive and ask about their work when you see something being done. Some of these plans were approved 2-3 years ago, and if you’re not sure about the sidewalk project call Pete Lemke.**

Subcommittee Reports

Executive Committee

- **No report.**

Access

- **Mosaic Project in Uptown is moving forward, they will have a multi-level high rise, and the transit center will be closed starting Saturday February 19. Michael Foster will contact them and request to meet with Access Committee within the next two weeks.**
- **35W Bridge Memorial needs to be looked in to.**

Finance

- **\$653.54. Margot Indieke Cross suggested may need to do fund raisers.**

Communication

- **No report.**

Emergency Preparedness

- **Committee met on February 15 and identified three strong stories for the 1st Responders video to focus on assisting people with disabilities in a more holistic way. Margot Indieke Cross will call The Barbara Schneider Foundation.**
- **Ken Rodgers heard that language being introduced to MN legislature “Complete Streets” to be banned. This is not mandated.**

Strategic Planning

- **Committee met today and is making progress on the website. They are asking committee members to look at the website and give comments to Jim – what do you like, dislike.**

Announcements

- **Disability Advocacy Day is March 7 at 10:00 am at the Capitol Rotunda.**
- **Lee Perish shared that Can Do Canines is having an Open House on Saturday February 26 from 12:00-4:00 pm. Will have many beautiful, great dogs up for adoption.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Next meeting will be held on March 16, 2011 in Room 132 City Hall from 4:30-6:30 pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Kim Stringfellow.

Action Items Summary:

- **Ahmed will forward the language block/statement to Martha Hage, Ken Rodgers and James Farstad for review.**
- **Ahmed will follow up with departments who did not have ADA liaisons in attendance at the February 11 ADA Liaison training.**
- **Michael Foster will contact Mosaic Project about attending Access meeting within the next two weeks.**
- **Margot Indieke Cross will call The Barbara Schneider Foundation.**