



**Advisory Commission
on Disabilities**

A City of Aurora Board & Commission

City of Aurora Advisory Commission on Disabilities

Approved Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023, 6:00 pm

Waubonsee Community College
Multipurpose Room
18 S. River St
Aurora, IL

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Janine McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

ROLL CALL: Janine McDonough, Sandra Harrison, Sean Williams, Elana Newkirk, Meredith Lindgren, Alex Engelhardt, David Givens, and Katrina Boatright.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Snyder -Transitional Job Coach for East Aurora High School, District 131. Works with students to learn both job and life skills. Works on job sites with businesses within the community willing to hire individuals with disabilities.

Carrie Snyder - Hearing Itinerant teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing students of East Aurora High School, District 131 and Special Olympics coach.

Denise Zartmann - Special Education teacher in the Transitional Program for 18 - 22 year old students with disabilities learning both life and vocational skills.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After corrections were noted for a couple of typos from last month's minutes Sandra Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes. Sean Williams seconded. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

AGENDA

1) Attendance By Means Other Than A Physical Presence: There were no members attending the meeting via Zoom. Seven members were physically in attendance for the meeting.

(a) Zoom Option Going Forward: Starting with the March, 2023 meeting, members are to be physically present as much as possible, using Zoom to attend meetings only in emergency situations.



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2) Elections - Vice Chair/Secretary Sandra Harrison made a motion to nominate Alex Engelhardt as the new Vice Chairperson. The board members voted unanimously for Alex Engelhardt to become the new Vice Chairperson. Elana Newkirk nominated herself to retain the position of Secretary. Board members unanimously voted for Elana Newkirk to retain the Secretary position.

3) Subcommittee Reports

(a) Advocacy: NONE

(b) Communications and Awareness: When the Aurora Police Department is promoting the Citizen Police Academy classes, Elana Newkirk expressed to the board of wanting to see the police department inform the community the classes are both accessible and inclusive.

(c) Access To Providers: Elana Newkirk shared with the board a service text message from the cell phone provider T-Mobile where it announced a service available to its customers called Internet Protocol (IP) Relay Service. This service allows for those with a hearing or speech impairment to use a Telecommunications Relay Service through a computer or web-enabled device to communicate through the telephone system with hearing persons.

(d) Community and Recreation: Sean Williams advised the Resource fair and the Sports Festival needs to be added to next month's agenda so that the board can start planning for the next one.

(4) Filling Commission Vacancy: Janine McDonough advised the board needs to be intentional on who the next person should be to fill the vacant spot currently open. Members should be thinking about what skills or connections they may have that would be beneficial to the board and the mission and goals currently being focused on.

(5) Brainstorming Sessions

(a) Review Communication Awareness Notes: Janine had noticed on the city website under the Advisory Commission on Disabilities still shows the board positions are all filled with no current openings, the bylaws the board is no longer using are still listed and the term limits had not changed. The update to the commission board information is being worked on. Reach out to smaller groups to make them aware of our commission. Continue with previous programs - Bright Light, Social Media Minute, highlighting services (social media zoom), Acronym page, and the Disability Resource Guide.



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(b) Access To Providers: Financial, legal, employment, employee training, housing, transportation, technology, other special services Sean Williams would like to invite Kelly Quinn to attend a meeting to make a presentation about the Scouts Explorer Program and their involvement with Special Needs kids in scouting. The board could suggest having another Shadow Day with the city.

(c) Review Subcommittee Assignments/Getting Started: Members need to start thinking about when each subcommittee should meet so that they can begin setting up times to get them going.

6) City Report

(a) Special Olympics: Katrina Boatright reached out to the schools to participate with the city to get on board with participating with the Special Olympics for Respect Week being spotlighted during the week of Monday, February 28, 2023 through Friday, March 3, 2023. East Aurora, District 204 and A.I.D are also participating. On Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 6 pm the City Council will be honoring the Special Olympics. The city plans to make it a staple to expand this yearly. A member of the Special Olympics is to be giving a speech and presentation during the meeting.

Katrina Boatright has been working on a Transportation Pilot Program that has been approved by the mayor's office. The pilot program is not an all citywide open transportation program. Will run from May- December in order to gather the data necessary to assess the gaps that are present in regards to transportation. The goal of the transportation program would be to eliminate the county border restrictions. To work with Lyft and Uber services. To see what works and what doesn't. The transportation pilot program would focus on seniors 60 and above as well as the disabled.

(b) Human Rights Commission: Katrina met with the Human Rights Commission, told their members about the Advisory Commission on Disabilities. The Human Rights Commission will be attending our March meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Congratulations to Katria Boatright on receiving the 2023 NIA Award. Congratulations to Sandra Harrison on being presented with the MLK Award of service. Well deserved accolades for both of these women.

ADJOURNMENT: Alex Engelhardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elana Newkirk seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm