



**Advisory Commission
on Disabilities**

A City of Aurora Board & Commission

City of Aurora

Advisory Commission on Disabilities

Monday, March 13, 2023 6:00 pm

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

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

ROLL CALL: Janine McDonough, Alex Engelhardt, Sean Williams, Elana Newkirk, Meredith Lindgren, Elizabeth Diederich and Katrina Boatright

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: William Small, Curtis Wilson, Tim Snyder, Carrie Snyder and Denise Zartmann.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alex Engelhardt made a motion to approve the minutes. Sean Williams seconded. Minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Curtis Wilson shared a NBC 5 Chicago news story on SpecialNeedsWarriors.org, an organization that caters to people with Special Needs by referring to professionals who provide the extra care that they require. Including patients with Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism, ADHD, Cystic Fibrosis, a person in a wheelchair or anyone who is compromised.

Curtis Wilson also spoke to the board members about the organization "Everybody Rides" started by Project Mobility in 2013. Project Mobility mission is to make a difference in the lives of children, adults and wounded soldiers with disabilities. By promoting better health, independence, and the freedom of mobility through adaptive cycling.

AGENDA

1) Human Relations Commission: Chairperson William Small gave a short presentation on what his commission does. The commission seeks to further understanding within our community and to preserve recognized rights of residents of the city and those who interact within the community. The commission focuses particularly in the area of employment, housing and access to public services and facilities.



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2) Respect Week: Katrina Boatright advised the board members her intent in regards to Respect Week was to magnify what exactly Special Olympics does during that week. School Districts 129, 131, 204, Fox Valley Park District, Fox Valley Special Recreation, A.I.D all got on board to push for inclusion and respect the best way that they could. City of Aurora staff members signed the banner and were very engaging with the awareness participation.

3) Subcommittee Reports: Chairperson Janine McDonough advised the board members that the subcommittees have to choose their chairperson and meet at least once a month between the Advisory Commission on Disabilities regular monthly meeting. The subcommittee chairperson will be responsible to set the meeting and then report back at the regular meeting what the subcommittee members had talked about.

(a) Advocacy: NONE

(i) Janine McDonough, Elana Newkirk, Meredith Lindgren and David Givens. Meredith Lindgren will be the chairperson for this subcommittee. Date and time for the first subcommittee meeting TBD.

(b) Communications and Awareness: Elana Newkirk and Sean Williams recommended to the board members of possibly having a "Wheelchair Day that would involve a couple city officials to partake in getting around various places and businesses within the city using a wheelchair to further bring awareness and assist with changing the perspective of what it feels like to get around using a wheelchair.

(l) Sandra Harrison, Meredith Lindgren, Elana Newkirk, Janine McDonough and Elizabeth Diederich. Elana Newkirk will be the chairperson for this subcommittee. Date and time for the first subcommittee meeting TBD.

(c) Access To Providers: Sean Williams made a recommendation of holding a Providers Conference with various vendors, A.I.D, Fox Valley Special Recreation and Fox Valley Park District to get together for one day to talk about each of our strengths and challenges and see what each organization or group is doing well, what may need to be changed or included that could otherwise be currently missing.

(i) Sean Williams, Janine McDonough, Elizabeth Diederich and Denise Zartmann. Elizabeth Diederich will be the chairperson for this subcommittee. Date and time for the first subcommittee meeting TBD.



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(d) Community and Recreation:

(i) Sean Williams, Janine McDonough, Alex Engelhardt and Curtis Wilson. Sean Williams will be the chairperson for this subcommittee. Date and time for the first subcommittee meeting TBD.

(ii) Vendor Fair: Sean Williams informed the board members that the Resource Fair will be held in September this year. Sean Williams will be working with Katrina Boatright on obtaining an exact available date through the Fox Valley Park District.

(iii) Sports Festival: The event is scheduled to be on Friday, May 12, 2023 with a rain date of Monday, May 15, 2023 at Phillips Park. Sean Williams has partnered with Simon Rodriguez from Youth Services to bring in two activities in an attempt to make this a much more inclusive event. Sean Williams is seeking volunteers from the Disability Commission to assist with the event.

4) Brainstorming Sessions:

(a) Review Access To Providers: Employee Training, Aurora Housing Authority Liaison, Employment, Transition Fairs, Connect Different Groups, Transportation and Speak to other groups.

(b) Communication and Recreation This will be the next subcommittee the board members will be discussing and brainstorming on.

(5) City Report: Katrina Boatright advised the board of the notice sent out from the Mayor's office of the reappointments for Sean Williams and Elana Newkirk. The two members will be reappointed by the mayor and city council during the Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 6pm City Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Denise Zartmann spoke to the board about Disabled Employee Awareness Month in October that invites employers interested in hiring someone with a disability. Have the businesses or employers that actively participated in hiring a disabled student be recognized for being involved with the initiative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sean Williams has invited an individual from the Boy Scouts to do a short presentation at the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Meredith Lindgren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alex Engelhardt seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.