



**Advisory Commission  
on Disabilities**

*A City of Aurora Board & Commission*

**City of Aurora Advisory Commission on Disabilities**

**Approved Minutes**

**Monday, April 10, 2023 6:00 pm**

Waubensee Community College

Multipurpose Room

18 S. River Street  
Aurora, IL

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Janine McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Kelly Quinn, Tim Snyder, Carrie Snyder and Denise Zartmann.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Sean Williams made a motion to approve the minutes. Sandra Harrison seconded. Minutes were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**AGENDA:**

**1) Boy Scout Presentation:** Kelly Quinn from Three Fires Council Boy Scouts of America spoke about the organization, giving an overview on their continued goal of making sure every kid has the opportunity to be included and no one is left out from being able to participate. Out of 7,000 youths in the program, 22% of them have some form of Special Needs (food allergy, ADHD, among other needs). Special tools and equipment is used during the Special Needs Awareness Nights which allows for the kids with Special Needs to participate in various activities while at the same time teaching the other kids without Special Needs about compassion and empathy for those different from themselves. They also provide training for the adult leaders on how to work with kids with all sorts of abilities.

**2) Chair Report:**

**(a) Required Documents:** Chairperson Janine McDonough reminded commission members to make sure all their required paperwork and certificates have been completed and turned into either herself or Katrina Boatright.



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**(b) Open Position:** The commission reviewed and then discussed the application submitted by Denise Zartmann. Alex Engelhardt made a motion to recommend the nomination for Denise Zartmann to be submitted to the Mayor's office and City Council for further consideration to fill the open position on the board. Elana Newkirk seconded. Motion carried. Chairperson Janine McDonough will submit the nomination to Katrina Boatright and the Mayor's office.

### 3) Subcommittee Reports:

**(a) Advocacy:** Chairperson Meredith Lindgren reported the subcommittee discussed Wheelchair Day, ADA Standards for parking downtown City of Aurora, whether or not businesses are following the ADA standards. Have someone from the Aurora Police Department come speak at the Disability Resource Fair. Have someone from the police department discuss hosting a class on what to do if a disabled person is pulled over and their SNAPP Program.

**(b) Communications and Awareness:** Chairperson Elana Newkirk reported the subcommittee had discussed the Brightlight Program and continuing with it quarterly. Putting together a Monthly Disability Awareness Calendar, having acronyms, other disability training. Discussion on Wheelchair Day, where to get the wheelchairs, how much it would cost and where and when to have the event. Having some sort of commission and boards summit so that we can be more thoughtful and mindful of each other while also being engaging with each of the commissions and boards.

**(c) Access To Providers:** Chairperson Elizabeth Diederich reported the subcommittee had discussed having a table at the Resource Fair with information about the Job Fair being held in October. The Department of Labor has videos that provide great information on hiring the disabled. Advised that Best Buddies is another one with great resources for employers who hire disabled employees. Suggested having providers and companies come in to talk about and answer questions about hiring those with disabilities. Have an employee assistance network.

**(d) Community and Recreation:** Chairperson Sean Williams advised that the subcommittee had discussed the Disability Resource fair and having it at the Prisco Center again or with the Vaughn Center being a possible alternate location depending on size and which one would be the better fit. They had talked about the donut holes that may have been noticed from the last fair, to have breakout sessions, and expanding the vendors. Also having a timeline set to use each year. Sports Festival at Phillips Park Friday, May 12, 2023 from 10 am - 2 pm. The Boy Scouts will be bringing two activities to the event; Beep Bags and Mirror Box which simulates what it feels like for a person with Dyslexia. Volunteers from the commission and other organizations are needed for the event as well.

**(4) City Report:** Katrina Boatright advised the commission the Disability Resource Guide is on its way. Katrina Boatright encourages any input from members of the commission to help make the book more informative and educational around disabilities.

**OTHER BUSINESS: NONE**



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Alex Engelhardt informed the commission about Sandra Harrison, Founder/CEO DVA Leadership Development and Training will be a guest speaker on June 29, 2023 8am - 10 am as part of the Oswego Chamber of Commerce Speaker Series.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meredith Lindgren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Williams seconded. The meeting was adjourned at at 7:08 pm