



**Advisory Commission  
on Disabilities**

*A City of Aurora Board & Commission*

**City of Aurora Advisory Commission on Disabilities**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Monday, May 8, 2023 6:00 pm**

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Curtis Wilson, Carrie Snyder and Tim Snyder.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**AGENDA:**

**1) Chair Report- Janine:** Janine McDonough has submitted to Katrina Boatright the recommendation of Denise Zartmann for further consideration by the Mayor to fill the open position within the Advisory Commission on Disabilities board. Elana Newkirk has reserved the use of the Multipurpose Room at Waubonsee Community College through the remainder of 2023 and will be reaching back out to the college in September to reserve the room for 2024.

Alex Engelhardt, Janine McDonough and Katrina Boatright had attended a Leadership Breakfast hosted by the mayor for all twenty-six of the City of Aurora commissions and boards. Janine McDonough shared with the ACD board members the list passed out at the breakfast of each individual commission or board and had highlighted the ones possibly relatable to our own mission and goals.

The City of Aurora is going to be announcing soon the "Color Me Warhol Summer Experience in Aurora" beginning Thursday, June 8, 2023.



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### **2) Subcommittee Reports:**

**a) Advocacy- Meredith:** Subcommittee still needs to pick their big project to focus on. Would like to partner up with the Communications and Awareness subcommittee regarding the parking issues and the SNAPP program. The Algonquin Police Department has recently implemented a green bracelet system which helps the Algonquin Police with handling an individual with Special Needs that is possibly nonverbal. A suggestion was made to check with Aurora Police to see if this is something they may have the capability to do in connection to their SNAPP program. Invite someone from the Aurora Police Department to come talk to the commission and explain more about this service.

**b) Communications and Awareness- Elana:** Sandra Harrison suggested doing a teaser for the wheelchair awareness day within the activity room during the resource fair.

During the wheelchair awareness day, members of the city council and other city officials should try to attempt maneuvering around in a wheelchair throughout the city council building located across the street from city hall.

Subcommittee narrowed down the three areas for the commission members to vote on then continue working on those chosen projects. The three areas chosen are: Bright Light Program, Acronym Page and Disability Awareness Calendar. Sandra Harrison made a motion to accept the three projects for the subcommittee to work on. Alex Engelhardt seconded. Motion carried.

### **c) Access To Providers- Elizabeth: No Report**

**d) Community and Recreation- Sean:** The Prisco Center is the chosen location once again for the Disability Resource Fair. Tentative dates are Wednesday, September 13, 2023 or Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Times changed to 5:30- 8:30 pm due to the speakers attending the event. There will be three speaker sessions with tentative speakers being from the Aurora Police Department, Ruben Law and Sherry Schneider. A side room with thirty chairs will also be set up. Pre-registration gets a person a chair and a lead on the list. Three sections of the big room will be utilized for the vendors. The goal is to have sixty vendors attend this year and to have them bring their own tables. Expand vendors list to include those that employ individuals with disabilities, that have their own business or have a disability themselves. Inviting more day programs to sign up and share a table. Evaluate the speaker series after the resource fair.

Sports Festival will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023 from 10 am -2 pm at Phillips Park. The Boy Scouts will be bringing Beep Bags and Mirror Boxes as an activity for the event. Any commission members available are requested to help volunteer if possible. Alex Engelhardt will be bringing the Soothe Space tent.



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**CITY REPORT:** Katrina Boatright advised the city is considering a "Project Sidewalk" event which involves including the community in identifying what sidewalks and crosswalks that need to be updated or upgraded. CARSS (City of Aurora Ride Solution for Seniors) six-week referral pilot program goes live July 1, 2023. Will be assessing it in small capacities to see what exactly works for the service.

**OTHER BUSINESS: NONE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Carrie Snyder informed the commission the Chicago white Sox have partnered with Special Olympics Illinois to host an event for individuals with disabilities at Guaranteed Rate Field for Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 1:10 pm.

Alex Engelhardt informed the commission members that Curtis Wilson was just recognized and awarded by the State of Illinois as "Volunteer of The Year." Congratulations to Curtis Wilson for a well deserved honor for all that he does within the City of Aurora community.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sean Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandra seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.