



**Advisory Commission
on Disabilities**

A City of Aurora Board & Commission

**City of Aurora Advisory Commission on Disabilities
Approved Minutes**

Monday, July 10, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Janine McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Janine McDonough, Alex Engelhardt, Elana Newkirk, Sean Williams, Denise Zartmann, Sandra Harrison, David Givens and Katrina Boatright. Absent were Elizabeth Diederich and Meredith Lindgren.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Curtis Wilson

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

AGENDA:

1) Chair Report -Janine

a) Welcome Denise: Board members congratulated and welcomed Denise Zartmann as the newest member appointed to serve on the commission.

b) Special Meeting Policy: Janine McDonough informed the board of the new budget process for requesting activities against the funds.

2) Subcommittee Reports:

a) Advocacy- Chair, Meredith: Elana Newkirk advised of the lack of available parking issues experienced during the two day Fourth of July events downtown. Will plan to do some further research regarding parking availability around downtown Aurora.

b) Communications and Awareness - Chair, Elana: Janine McDonough sent Katrina Boatright the application along with the wording and parental consent form for nominees under 18 years of age for permission to post their photo on social media. Discussed having a letter sent to the city council to announce the Brightlight Program. Discussed having the nominees attend a city council meeting and be recognized at a commission meeting. Brightlight nominees must live or work in Aurora or be an employer that hires the disabled. No commission member is eligible.



Advisory Commission on Disabilities

A City of Aurora Board & Commission

Janine McDonough and Meredith Lindgren advise there is a list of monthly disability awareness days that we can work with and use for the Disability Awareness Calendar. Meredith Lindgren and Elana Newkirk will continue to work on the Awareness calendar for the months of August, September and October. The featured disabilities will include a link if possible and a short paragraph explaining the disability. Sandra Harrison advised us not to overlook adding Overdose Awareness Day, August 31st to the calendar as it also affects individuals within the disabled community as well.

c) Access To Providers -Chair, Elizabeth: NONE

d) Community and Recreation - Chair, Sean: The registration form for the Disability Resource Fair has been updated. Looking for updates from the City of Aurora on how to move forward with the pre-registration process. Discussed highlighting the vendors with disabilities. The same tote bags from last year will be used this year. Curtis Wilson made a suggestion for next year to seek sponsors to be printed on the bags.

Alex Engelhardt is working on the Resource Fair flyer and Curtis Wilson will be handing out flyers at the reopening of the Council Chambers on September 5, 2023. There will be four half hour breakout speaker sessions during the fair with session times scheduled to be held at; 5:45- 6:15 pm, 6:25-6:55 pm, 7:05-7:35 pm and 7:45-8:15 pm.

Discussed the raffle prizes for the fair. A list of the raffle prizes were sent to Katrina Boatright along with a request for suggestions of additional raffle prizes. There will be two raffle drawing times at 6:20 pm and 7:00 pm. Participants must be present for the drawing to win.

For the night of the Resource Fair; volunteers will be needed to direct guests and vendors where to go, help load and unload equipment and materials. Volunteers will also be needed at the registration, raffle and resources tables. Alex Engelhardt advised she has a volunteer group to assist with the set up/clean up duties and at the snack table. Fox Valley Special Recreation has offered to purchase any leftover snacks to be used at one of their other future events.

3) CITY REPORT - Katrina Boatright: CARS (City of Aurora Ride Solution) Pilot Program is up and running. To request a ride the referral must come from either A.I.D (Assoc. for Individual Development), Veterans's Affairs or Senior Services. Currently provides six rides per month at no cost, not limited by county with mileage up to 20 miles. Service can be used for transportation to and from medical appointments, food/grocery shopping, employment and recreation. The plan is to expand beyond the current fifty participants and see what that exactly looks like in the long run.

The Aurora Police Department is willing to hear and work with the commission since they are very sensitive to the awareness of ADA compliance and someone from the police department is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the commission meeting on September 11, 2023.



Advisory Commission on Disabilities

A City of Aurora Board & Commission

The City has an ADA Compliance Team which consists of a coordinator in the Public Works Department and a person in the Human Relations Department. Citizens can also call the 630-256-INFO line to report any ADA compliance violations, complaints or concerns that need to be addressed and followed up by the city. Director of Community Events, Mike Nelson is very intentional on parking and accessibility at the community events within the city, especially in downtown Aurora.

The Resource Fair will include a lot of resources to be added to the Disability Resource Guide.

4) OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: July is Disability Pride Month. Boston and Chicago are the only two cities that hold a Disability Pride Parade each year. Chicago has the longest years for hosting the parade. Chicago will host their 20th year Disability Pride Parade on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

To coincide with the 33rd anniversary of when the Americans with Disabilities Act went into law, Janine McDonough has put together a short paragraph with an image found online with added information about the commission that is scheduled to be posted to the Facebook page on July 26, 2023 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT: Elana Newkirk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alex Engelhardt seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.