



**Advisory Commission  
on Disabilities**

*A City of Aurora Board & Commission*

**City of Aurora Advisory Commission on Disabilities**

**Approved Minutes**

**Monday, August 14, 2023, 6:00 pm**

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

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chairperson Alex Engelhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** Alex Engelhardt, Sean Williams, Sandra Harrison, Janine McDonough, Elana Newkirk, Denise Zartmann and Katrina Boatright. Meredith Lindgren was absent.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Curtis Wilson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Sandra Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2023 General Meeting. Alex Engelhardt seconded. Alex Engelhardt then made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2023 Special Budget Meeting. Elana Newkirk seconded. Minutes for both meetings were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Curtis Wilson shared brief information from the Disability Impacts Illinois statistics that focuses on adults with disabilities in regards to their health and work disparities within the community.

**AGENDA:**

**1) Chair Report- Janine**

**(a) Member Update:** Janine McDonough informed the commission that the board is currently down two members. The 'apply' button for applicants to apply for one of the open positions is back on the webpage.

**(b) Access To Providers Subcommittee Chair:** Denise Zartmann volunteered to be chairperson for the subcommittee.



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### **2) Budget Update- Alex**

**(a) Vote on Any New Expenditures or Changes:** Alex Engelhardt informed the board that there are no expenditures or changes to the budget to report.

### **3) Subcommittees - Reports**

**(a) Advocacy- Chair, Meredith: NONE**

**(b) Communications and Awareness - Chair, Elana:** In July, Elana Newkirk met with Alderman Bill Donnell to discuss how he conducted awareness for the Wheelchair Day when he was director of the Fox valley Park District. The subcommittee discussed talking to the Aurora Police during the September meeting about how the driver's license classifications pertaining to disabled drivers are too broad and how the police then interpret that in regards to the driver. Elana Newkirk forwarded to Janine McDonough information on how to talk to and address individuals with disabilities that could possibly be used on our Acronym page. Sandra Harrison shared with the subcommittee the Illinois Driver's Guide for the Disabled. Janine McDonough asked Katrina Boatright to send an invite to the ADA Compliance Team to appear at one of our future meetings to speak to the commission.

**(c) Access To Providers: NONE**

**(d) Community and Recreation - Chair, Sean:** 25 vendors that have signed up for the Resource Fair. The room has been confirmed for the Breakout Speaker Sessions. A second round of invites were sent out to organizations along with a Google Doc sign up sheet. Janine McDonough posted the flier on the Facebook page, tagged the City of Aurora's Facebook page and posted it on multiple Facebook pages and groups. A suggestion was made to consider a Tax Prep and Tax Credit seminar as a future event.

**City Report:** Katrina Boatright has been receiving additional resources from Janine McDonough to help put together the Disability Resource Guide. Katrina Boatright sought suggestions from the board on how the guide should ultimately be made available; digitally or by print.

Katrina Boatright would like to expand Special Olympic Respect Week next year. She would like to further magnify awareness and inclusiveness of disabilities. Planning will need to start soon in order to have more time to prepare for the event.

After a few glitches were ironed out the CARS Pilot is going well and the feedback received has all been very positive.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Elana Newkirk shared with the board that the Aurora Citizens Police Academy Alumni is hoping to participate in this year's Illinois Special Olympics Plane Pull Event on September 30, 2023 located at the O'Hare Cargo Bay from 7:30 am - ??



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Janine McDonough will be posting on our Facebook page throughout the month. For August: Spinal Muscular Atrophy Month; August 6. Assistance Dog Week; August 21, National Senior Citizens Day; August 31, International Overdose Awareness Day

**ADJOURNMENT:** Alex Engelhardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sean Williams seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm