

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting minutes – August 2023

Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 7pm.

Location: City Hall, 301 King Street, Chet & Sabra Avery Room 2000

Members present: Tom Valluzzi, Megan Prince, Rachel Dixon, Nathan Toews, Kristen Creighton, Michael Kamin, Jeff Pool, Lawrence Lewis, Jennifer Wiser, Sue Picerno

Members excused: Nawfal Kulam, Alex Sprague, Justin Beland, Robert Ludke.

Members absent:

City Staff: Namood Khan, (OHR).

Guest: Doris Ray (ENDependence Center)

Guest speakers: None

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Approval of the agenda: Commissioner Kamin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Prince, and approved unanimously by the Commission body.

Approval of May minutes: Commissioner Kamin made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Wiser, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Doris Ray from Endependence center reminded that ACPD will be celebrating 50 years anniversary in 2024 and suggested that the Commission should plan some activities. She shared that ECNV has been working on a variety of advocacy efforts both nationally and locally. She shared some information regarding future events and encouraged the Commission to visit the organization's website. She also shared some of the Organization's advocacy work, one of them being the Center's request 550 million dollars in appropriations.

Introduction of new Commissioners: Kristen Creighton.

Chair's report:

- Welcomed everyone back from summer break.
- He expressed his disappointment with the turnout at the June award ceremony. He pointed out that it is important for the Commission to actively attend event, and that attendance at an event like the ACPD awards, which was co-sponsored by the Commission this is non-negotiable.
- He shared about a Disability influencer and suggested that the Commission members could do something similar individually.

- He shared an article from Nation Magazine: the future of design is designing for disability.
- Plan something to celebrate the 50 years anniversary of the ACPD. A proposal / white paper to suggest the government that we revisit the sidewalk and assess modern more accessible material while maintaining, can we advocate for change.
- Revise Bylaws.
- Encourage everyone to think big, if we can use the enticement of this anniversary, and take a bid swing that has a price tag to it.

Committee Report:

- **Nomination Committee:** Commissioner Prince and commissioner Dixon opened the floor for nominations: Following names were nominated:
 1. Jeff Pool: nominated by Commissioner Dixon, Seconded by Commissioner Kamin: Received 8 votes.
 2. Megan Prince: nominated by Michael Kamin: Received 4 votes.
 3. Sue Picerno: nominated by Megan Prince: received 5 votes.

Jeff Pool was elected as the Chair, Sue Picerno was elected as Vice Chair depending on Sue's reappointment (Commissioner's Picerno's term had expired without her knowledge, she will reapply to the Commission).

Jeff advised that the Commission form a nominating committee in Spring next year so that the elections can be held in a timely fashion (in June). That is the way the calendar is supposed to align. There were discussion about whether the elections can be done in May. Chair Pool said that the Bylaws need to be revised.

Executive Committee: A new executive Committee was formed: Jeff Pool, Sue Picerno, Megan Prince.

Legislative Committee: Nothing to report.

Liaison Reports:

- **Human Rights Commission:** Commissioner Prince shared the following information from the HRC:
 - Pride Month
 - Public forum of the Supreme court decisions and implications for the community.
 - HRC Chair elections.
 - Discussion of objectives and inviting guest speakers.
 - Met with representatives from Housing regarding new initiatives.
- **AHAAC:** Commissioner Sprague was not present.

Member Reports:

- Commissioner Valluzzi shared that the Four Mile Run kayak project is moving ahead.
- Commissioner Toews shared that there no curb cut by on Russell Road by the Masonic Temple. Chair Pool advised him to report it to 311.
- Commissioner Wiser: formally congratulate Kate Radt on the Bertier Scholarship.
- Commissioner Dixon shared that a new has been approved for treatment of Muscular dystrophy.

Adjournment: Commissioner Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Prince, and approved unanimously by the Commission body. The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM.