

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Meeting minutes – March 2023

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7pm City Hall, 301 King Street, Chet and Sabra Avery Room 2000

Members present: Jeff Pool, Michael Kamin, Alex Sprague, Tom Valuzzi, Rachel Dixon, Nathan Toews, Jen Wiser.

Members excused: Justin Beland, Nawfal Kulam, Sabrina Reilly, Sue Picerno.

Members absent:

City Staff: Namooode Khan, (OHR).

Guests: The Radt family.

Guest speakers: None

The Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

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

Approval of February minutes: Commissioner Sprague made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Toews, and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Public Comment: Radt family shared two concerns related to accessibility, especially for wheelchair users.

- 1) Alleys crossing sidewalks that have not been updated from cobblestone to a smoother surface
- 2) Constricted sidewalk segments well short of the ADA standard width (south Lee and Prince, 100 block of South Lee)

The Commission body acknowledged that it's a concern. Namooode reached out to the City's ADA manager, and he advised the Radt family to report it using 311. If the issue is not resolved, then the family should file a complaint with the office of Human Rights.

- **Chair's Report:** Chair Pool talked about the passing of disability rights activist, Judy Heumann and her contributions to the persons with disabilities.
- He also talked about the disabled Icelandic man who is in the news after being fired by Elon Musk ([Elon Musk apologizes after mocking disabled Twitter employee | AP News](#))
- He shared that Commissioner Sprague has drafted two proclamations. Chair Pool read out the draft proclamation on "Autism Acceptance", which will be read out in April. The second one on "Disability Pride" will be drafted to be released in July.
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Liaison Report:

- **Human Rights Commission:** Commissioner Beland was excused but had shared a brief report which was read out by Chair Pool.
- **Commission on Aging:** No representative from COA.
- **AHAAC:** Commissioner Sprague will attend the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Beland was excused but had shared a brief report which was read out by Chair Pool.
- **ACPD awards committee was formed:** Rachel Dixon, Jen Wiser and Michael Kamin.

Member reports:

- Commissioner Sprague shared about the two proclamations they have been working on.
- Commissioner Wiser shared that she has withdrawn her complaint against Junction Bakery; the establishment is under new management, and they have submitted plans for resurfacing of the parking lot.
- Commissioner Dixon shared about the limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy International Conference that is taking place in Washington, D.C. She shared that the registration opened April 5. ([The National Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Conference](#))
- Commissioner Valluzzi shared his experience with DASH and shared that the service has declined, and their new scheduling program is flawed.
- **Adjournment:** Commissioner Sprague made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wiser, and approved unanimously by the Commission body. The meeting concluded at 8:05 PM.