

**Minutes – Regular Meeting**  
**DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday July 25, 2018**  
**Main Library, Oak Park Illinois**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

Present: Amy O'Rourke, Jen Kovar, Brian Roman, Stephanie Browning, Alap Shah, Suzan Riley, Kathleen Yannias  
Staff Liaison: Steve Cutaia  
Quorum: The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM. and a quorum was declared.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approved was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Carried

**Minutes**

Motion to approved was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Carried

**Non Agenda Public Comments**

- No public attended

**Ongoing Business**

- New Business:
  - Chair Amy reached out to Trustee Button.
  - Chair Amy noticed Trustee Andrews posted video about Lake Street sidewalk obstructions. It had over 1000 views and over 55 comments. Invited Trustee to our meeting. Commissioner Brian explained how he talked to the Trustee about all his issues with businesses and sidewalks. Commissioner Brian stated that the Trustee will talk with the other Trustees. Amy mentioned Scoville and Pleasant. Steve forwarded the complaint to PW. There is confusion on what is inaccessible and what is considered accessible.
  - Commissioner Suzen thought when they close they should seek a safe passageway. She is against rerouting around a block.
- Chair Amy explained her goal statement below;
  - developed the following outline to support tonight's discussion:
    - I. Goal statement: Accessible and clear passageways that allows all to navigate throughout the Village without difficulty
    - II. Issue: The Village currently experience Los obstruction to passageways caused by:
      - building construction that impacts public walk-ways
      - Poor Village planning
      - Village events like business district sidewalk sales or Thursday night out
      - Outdoor use of public ways for sidewalk cafes, outdoor furniture, canopies, etc
    - III. Root causes:
      - Lack of awareness of Village Trustees, Village staff and businesses
      - Village permitting criteria/process inconsistent with best practices
      - Lack of Village enforcement
    - IV. Recommended courses of action:
      - Document examples of obstructions/ best practices- video/picture
      - Research best practices of other municipalities
      - understand current Village permitting criteria/process/enforcement to understand gaps
      - develop findings and recommendations

- meet with Village staff, Village Trustees, Businesses and other key stakeholders to present recommendations

V. Next steps

- Issue is inconsistency, consistent policies and awareness.
- Commissioner Kate had coffee at a coffee shop at Oak Park and Lake Street and that they stated the Village will back down on regulations for having an accessible route.
- Commissioner Stephanie stated the Hot Apple Pie Shop has our award posted. Suggested that we have a meeting there.
- The Commission discussed any other stakeholders than the disabled, The Chamber of Commerce, different organizations, Director Grossman, elected officials etc.
- Chair Amy is to create a Google Drive
  - Steps or courses of action
    - Document best practices
    - Take photos video
  - Liaison Cutaia sent an e-mail to the Village attorney for approval
- Commissioner Kate discussed recommendations that can be duplicated by Best Practices, resources and other guides. Commissioner Stephanie what is doable and what is not achievable. Rubric on what can be necessitated and what can be a long term fix.
- Commissioner Stephanie stated that there is room for more signage and additional signage for pedestrians
- The commission discussed promoting signage that should make motorist is aware of stopping instead of yielding for pedestrian. Pedestrian Safety is added to our goal. Commissioner Stephanie stated we should have pedestrian re-outing signs.
- Commissioner Brian mentions an AP for a pedestrian like WISE would be needed.
- Commissioner Brian questions what the definition of disability is. He also suggested creating a flyer.
- The group discussed that they want either Manager Jeff Prior or Director Grossman to attend the meeting Commissioner Brian to schedule something.
- Commissioner Jen and Commissioner Brian discussed how the commission should attend one of another organization's meetings.
- The Commission discussed Forest Park and their policies. Commissioner Suzen mentioned how corners have brick sidewalks. They discussed the Progress Center. Commissioner Suzen mentioned to contact Larry Blonde and Larry Arnold. Chair Amy assigned Commissioner Suzan to reach out to them.
- Chair Amy asked if there are any other municipalities to research
- Commissioner Kathleen brought up Seattle is a walkable community.
- Commissioner Stephanie mentioned to Google the top ten accessible communities. She is to locate the best list and forward to the staff liaison.
- Commissioner Jen brought up the awards ceremony and that the Commission needs to promote
  - FYI
  - Link or form of the web page
  - Check on communication /FYI

- Amy is to discuss inserting an article in the newspaper with Dave Powers
- Commissioner Jen is asking commissioners to reach out the area associations. Steve is to try to obtain a paper application from Communications.
- Commissioner Jen wants to meet at happy apple next meeting, Commissioner Stephanie will ask happy apple

**New business**

- The commission agreed to hold the next meeting at the Hot Apple Pie-pending approval.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.