

DRAFT

Portland Disability Advisory Committee

June 3, 2015

10am – Noon

Room 24, Portland City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Present: Michelle Ames, Renee Berry Huffman, Bud Buzzell, Christina Mailhot, Nicholas Smith, Rachel Talbot-Ross, Karen Perry, and Jill Johanning.

Guests: Tom and Glen from Metro

No meeting minutes were reviewed. Ongoing: Rachel to look into getting meeting minutes on city website.

25th Anniversary of the ADA

Alpha One to coordinate training for the civil rights law with internal city staff.

June 23rd ADA training with city staff has been finally scheduled; Rachel to attend to use at demonstration to have ADA training for all departments.

1. Reminder for Volunteers for public events to represent the PDAC:

FARMERS MARKET

Wednesday July 22 moment square

7-10: Karen and Julie

10-1: Michelle

Saturday July 25 Deering Oaks, 7-1

7-10: Michelle

10-1: Michelle, Bud, Karen, Christina

Informational/educational/awareness, will need interpreters unless Merrill from MCD will join and could interpret

Need materials for handout for PDAC for committee, help promote Maine disability organizations.

There will be a meeting for anyone interested to discuss PDAC materials on Friday June 12 at 9:30-11:30am room 24 for the July farmers market booth.

1. Next steps with city

2. First Friday coordination with city staff: No Update

Post pone until _____ and confirm with city staff and Creative Portland, weather permitting since there was no coordination with city staff for April
Invite Creative Portland to _____ PDAC meeting, Renee to coordinate subcommittee meeting after First Friday.

Outdoor dining: No Update

3. 2015 Disability Training coordination

Update: Know your rights will be presented to committee at monthly meeting on August 5th, poster from Alpha One coming soon.

2. METRO

April annual employee meeting update:

Held bike and pedestrian trainings, disability training for securement training for bus operators. Metro changed policy to require people to move out of reserved wheelchair seating area if space is needed for a rider with a mobility device. Metro will update policy on website, and bus operators know of new policy. Will update accessible symbol icon to reflect new policy that people had previously ignored for reserved seating. Securing rollators to prevent from being projectiles was not covered in training, and Karen expressed that she is doing it herself with help of other riders not the driver, Metro will review and is not opposed to looking at policy for rollators.

Basic sign language training was also suggested for bus operators, and customer service working with people and cultural competency for people with disabilities. Renee would be willing to offer trainings that's he used to provide, and could be part of every new employee hired training. Glen shared example of disability training at previous job in Arizona where a panel of disabled riders presented to bus operators, and was about a two hour session/conversation. Renee will present to PDAC first before METRO.

GPS system is coming to public this summer, and has capability to include rolling message sign for next stop and recorded audio announcement, but have goal to get sign in bus into 2016 budget.

Introducing a transit book to replace old extra-large fold out bus maps. Not sure if map and schedule are formatted for Apple or Droid smartphone.

Text alerts are available through city for people that sign up for them, and would it be possible for Metro to offer this alert service too when detoured traffic impacts schedule/route. Maybe able to work with the Southern Maine Transit Tracker GPS system coming in August.

Impact to schedule during street closures around festivals, city is actually pushing back on transit being a priority and not Metro who wants less disruption in their schedule. Example Congress Street during First Friday Art Walks. A Memo of understanding is being worked on between Metro and City that major arteries that Metro relies on during peak times will not be closed.

Public forums update:

Metro presented 5 year transit plan and priorities, which included public suggestion like cross town service, example of Westbrook to the Maine Mall very close but only way to get there is through downtown Portland; Glen will forward survey to Rachel and power point presentation presented to public for committee members.

30 Bus shelters will be installed over next year

Expansion to Freeport which will launch in spring of 2016

Other updates/ concerns:

Sunday buses start August 16

Bud expressed concern about access to Downeaster/Concord trail ways station from Congress Street, and requested if Metro could come to the Iris Network to meet with riders. They have done that before the schedule changes, question if have requested RTP service for door to door service.

Christina expressed concern about operator customer service with Metro schedule concerns from work to Elm Street.

Clarification on transfers was provided that they need to be used within hour or next bus, intended to be used for a single trip, not return. Requested consistency between drivers for time allowances as drivers handle differently.

Extending ramps is still an issue with Karen's rollator, bus drivers will wait until you request it. Concern about additional time it would add to routes if they extended ramp every time there was someone with a mobility device. Drivers are trained to use kneeler if there is not a curb.

There are city councilors on the Metro board that could be another route to improvise communication between Metro and PDAC.

Who is on the board was reviewed, and it was noted that the cities who participate with Metro select board members, there was a rider with vision loss on the board years ago, and it was suggested to contact Councilor Suslovic who is the chair of the Metro board about getting more diverse members on the board.

3. Parking Committee

No update.

Concern was expressed about delivery trucks blocking crosswalks.

4. Livability Survey

No update.

5. First Responders Training

Meeting with police update: Portland Police Department has not done any ADA training in five years, but will identify someone to join PDAC training committee to consult with creating specific ADA training for police staff. Rachel to work with department to coordinate a meeting to invite police representative.

Further discussion needed on who will do presentation with Renee for broad presentation on dealing with people with disabilities, and specific curriculum on ADA. Jill to check with New England ADA center for resources. Go back through Irene's research, try to schedule with Irene's schedule to try to join Renee to coordinate.

6. 25th ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Anniversary – July 2015

See discussion above.

7. Transportation to Employment

No update. Clarification is needed on this issue before moving forward.

8. Snow Removal

No Update

Invite city counsel to explain snow removal obligation policy.

Icy sidewalks still a concern, people falling, and do complain to city

9. Other business

Announcements:

July meeting will be pushed back to July 8th due to the holiday.

Training subcommittee will meet early at 9 am instead of July 7th as scheduled.

Cancel June 16th training meeting.