

DRAFT

Portland Disability Advisory Committee

November 4, 2015

10am – Noon

Room 24 Portland City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Present: Nicholas Smith, Michael Russell, Karen McPhee, Martin Margules, Roseanne Gray, Karen Perry, and Jill Johanning.

Guests: Leslie Kerr

No meeting minutes were reviewed from October.

1. ADA on METRO

Leslie Kerr, ADA Representative for Houston transportation system, reviewed transportation requirements for transit systems under the ADA.

- i) Houston had handbook for riders to know what their rights are, suggested that METRO also offer similar booklet for riders.
- ii) Houston also had separate stop indicator button for people with disabilities; Houston also offered that Disabled passengers ride for free.
- iii) Federal law
 - (1) All operators have to have training for tie down of mobility devices, concern about damage or injury if mobility devices like rollator is not tied down
 - (2) Ramp is required to be put out if there is a curb, and passenger could complain, can file within 24 hours call customer service and ask for supervisor
 - (3) Stops must be maintained and operable during winter; however METRO is volunteer Adopt a Stop only for snow removal
- iv) Coordinate future meeting with METRO and Leslie to review ADA law under transportation

- v) Karen Perry has been suggested as committee representative for METRO meetings starting in January, Michael to follow up with meeting dates for METRO

2. City of Portland update

Introduction of new City representatives, Michael and Karen will share committee concerns with Jon Jennings:

- i) Karen McPhee oversees Portland Recreation programs for children and adults with disabilities
 - (1) There will be a new person heading up Portland's Senior Recreation program: Meg Metcalf experience in other senior programs.
 - (2) Concern was expressed about Recreations staff handling mobility devices and access of buses for seniors and people with disabilities.
- ii) Michael Russell Environmental Health Division, including restaurants; however someone else does outdoor dining in code enforcement.
- iii) City Manager also requested to try and make meetings shorter, starting at 11am now
- iv) Working on training all departments for ADA law and awareness

Martin gave update that the city manager has started the process of getting hearing loops for most of meeting rooms in City Hall and city council chambers.

3. City survey recap

Mike shared results from the survey that the city has, and possible future survey to focus on specific topics; also looking at city policies that relate to items on list. Results have been shared with the City Manager; see attached.

4. Outdoor dining

- a. Some restaurants still have seating outside as of this meeting. Mike has not seen list that the committee created from 2014.
- b. It was reviewed that there was an attempt to have Bud walk with code enforcement officer with concerns of seating locations: Karen Perry also reviewed the success of having local restaurants attend a PDAC meeting with the outdoor dining permit changes.

5. Noise ordinance

Martin mentioned requesting businesses to turn down interior music, and most have been very good

Karen reviewed complaints to city about on going issue with the Empire keeping residents awake late at night.

6. Survey requested to be shared with committee from Irene:

a. www.mainedsoab.org

1. **Parking Committee – No Update**
2. **Snow Removal – No Update**
3. **PDAC Logo – No Update**
4. **Other business – No Upate**

Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting December 2 at 11am

Attached: Survey Summary

Portland Disability Advisory Committee

2014 Survey Summary

Key Findings

- Snow removal and sidewalk maintenance are not adequate for those with disabilities to navigate safely. These are the the most consistent themes throughout the survey. 61% reported it as the most pressing problem in their neighborhood.
- Not enough accessible transportation. Metro bus service was reported as not reliable and the schedule does not meet needs. For example, no service on Saturday night and Sunday. Respondents do not like to wait outside in cold and wet weather.

Transportation

- 50% drive their own car and 16% are driven by a family member or friend.
- 65% live near a bus stop, 11% use the public bus and 60% never take the bus.
- 40% report the bus schedule as not meeting their need.
- 36% don't like waiting outside in cold and wet weather.
- 50% report the cost of transportation as being a reason they don't go to all of the places they wish.
- 81% feel safe or very safe when traveling to places.
- 75% report the transportation they use as reliable.

Demographics

- Approximately 70 respondents completed the survey.
- 40% live outside of Portland and work, volunteer or access services in Portland.
- ¼ of Portland respondents live in the Western Promenade or North Deering.
- 70% of respondents are between 40-70 years old.
- 37% live alone and another 38% live with one other person, mostly a spouse, partner or child.
- 82% are long-term residents of the community.
- 75% would like to stay where they currently live.
- 50% report the places where they live as having good or better than good accessibility.
- 50% have known contacts in their neighborhood, such as family and friends.
- 79% exercise at least one per week.
- 77% have a pet.
- 85% voted in the past year.
- 94% reporting having medical insurance and 35% still report affording medications as a problem.
- 50% work for money.
- 90% live within 30 minutes of where they work or volunteer.
- 50% earn less than \$35,000 per year.
- 60% reported feeling depressed in the past year.
- 79% had a physical exam in the past year.