



April 6, 2016

Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC)

Present: Co-chairs Renee Berry-Huffman and Karen Perry, Jim Devine, Michelle Ames, Nancy Knauber, Glenn Fenton (Metro Bus), Cheryl Miner, Gina Tapp (City HR Director), Bud Buzzell, and city staff Michael Russell and Karen McPhee.

Guest Speaker: Gina Tapp, City HR Director

Scheduled speaker, Kathy Alves of the City Trades Department was unable to attend due to a family emergency. She will attend the May 4th meeting. Karen M., will confirm with her for placement on the agenda.

Person	Item	Action
Renee	Opened the meeting, welcomed the new members in attendance.	Members introduced themselves.
Jim	Flyers for the housing crisis in the city.	Jim spoke briefly about the housing crisis in Portland and asked to distribute flyers to the group membership to share.
Gina	• Goal for the new EEO person/position. She has a personal interest in attending. A family member had a challenging physical condition that highlighted the difficulties that are encountered by a person using a wheelchair when the environment is not physically accessible. Gina is interested in advocacy and the ADA. • Knows there is a need for accommodation for invisible disabilities.	Gina spoke of her concerns that diversity in the work place is an issue. She is searching for the “right” person to fill this position. • Goal: Provide the best qualified person for the position • Increase range and diversity of applicants to include person of color, disability, and skill. • Knowledge of disability is critical. • Budget is moving forward with this new position in place. • Person to begin January 1, 2017. • Wants to attend committee meetings to learn about the issues facing individuals with disabilities in the city.

	- Part of the EEO position is to help with training around ADA issues, work place accommodations and how to build outreach efforts. - Wants the city to be proud of its efforts and its workforce.	Wants to have representation of the committee to help with interviews.
Renee	Interest in this position	Wants to hear more about the position moving ahead. There is a lot of interest in various topics affecting people with disabilities.
Karen P.	Expressed thanks that Gina is attending meetings with the group.	
Renee	Disabilities and language	The term for those disabilities that are not apparent is referred to as “invisible.”
Nancy	Question about subcommittee work	She is willing to help with research and solutions. Has knowledge of the city as a former employee with the Planning Department. The group needs people who have not outgrown activism.
Karen P. /Renee	Committees	There has been some committee work in the past for housing and transportation.
Michelle	Nickelodeon Movie Theatre	Devices are now available for the deaf community to attend the movie of their choice using either a computer with closed captions using a theatre chair at any time or the vision glasses which may or may not be comfortable for some viewers. Her preference is the closed caption computer as she can go at any time and see her movie of choice. Great advance for the deaf community.
Renee	Discussion for next meeting will be hearing devices with Kathy Alves.	The FM Loop system was available last year. The device should be in the meeting room for every meeting. She will check past meeting notes to see about this.
Cheryl	Peaks Island Issues	Concerns about seating and audio use in the community center on the island due to her personal challenges and those of other seniors who cannot hear presenters in the meeting room and/or cannot use padded chairs for

		personal comfort. Renee and Cheryl will stay in touch on the issue. Rosanne suggested that Cheryl contact Denise Macaronas in the recreation department to help address these issues.
Glenn	METRO ADA training	Glenn shared with the group the progress that Metro is making in providing training to drivers which will start on April 7th. Members from this committee will help with the training of drivers. • Bud – representing the IRIS Network/low vision riders • Michelle – Deaf community • Karen P. – brain injuries • Renee – individuals with autism/ users of wheelchairs • Glenn shared the outline of the training • Wants to personalize the riding experience • Help drivers improve their customer skills through the training, including etiquette, use of terms, and how to assist riders with disabilities.
Karen P.	Kiosk of information	Karen requested that Glenn provide a kiosk of riding information for the residents of 10 Congress Square as there are a large number of potential riders in the building.
Renee	Minutes of March Meeting	Accepted and noted.
Renee	Next Meeting	• Next meeting will take place on May 4. • Presenters will be Kathy Alves on hearing devices • Maine Adapted Sports on summer activities.