



Portland Disability Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2017

Present: Jim Devine (Homeless Voices for Justice), John LeMieux, Jane Giroux (Homeless Voices for Justice), Randy (Voices for Justice), Jill Johanning (Alpha One), Karen Perry, Elaine (interpreter from Pine Tree Society), Dianna Oliver, Haley Pass, Eland and Gabby, Kayla Moore (STRIVE), Lisette Belanger (Disability Rights Maine), Jillian Felleman, Bud Buzzell, Gina Tapp (HR Director), Karen McPhee (Recreation), and Mandy Levine (Workforce and Diversity Specialist)

Mandy welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and introduced herself to the group. She explained her role to the committee. The members of the group made their introductions to each other and the sign-in sheet was circulated.

- Minutes of the last meeting were moved for approval by Karen Perry and seconded by John LeMieux. Lisette Belanger asked about the correction for the last meeting. It was determined that acceptance was based on the amended correction to the minutes which will appear once completed. (Please note the amendment to the May minutes: In the May meetings, on page 5, there was a statement by Lisette regarding housing for the deaf in Arizona. The correction should read that “HUD sued (the state of) Arizona for building a senior citizen home due to be inclusive but after debates realized that Arizona has good cause so HUD dropped the lawsuit.”)

- Mandy shared an update on the status of the application process for the Committee membership: the applications for the committee seats are currently under review. Mandy reiterated that any other interested persons are encouraged to attend all meetings. Interviews with Gina and Mandy will be set up over the next few weeks.
 - Gina shared that every city committee is formal and this group will be set up as a formal committee like all others in the city. The goal of the committee is to help with policy determination and report directly to Jon Jennings, city manager.
- ADA Study – the city has hired an engineering company from Baltimore (Tindale Oliver) to review the city’s buildings, rights of ways and facilities. Mandy is working with the company to let them know about the facilities and roadways that are maintained/owned by the city. The engineers will attend the July 12 meeting with the committee to hear about any questions and concerns that any members have. It is anticipated that this will take up a large portion of the meeting. Mandy will reach out to the engineers to get a sense of what they would like to learn/hear from the meeting attendees and get back to the group.
 - Question – Why did we have to go outside the state to find engineers to do the study?
 - Gina – The city has a Request for Proposal process that companies respond to.
 - Jill – This is a big undertaking and the city has not done anything like this in 25 years.
 - Question – Does this include streets?
 - Mandy – Yes, all city owned buildings, not businesses, and streets (rights of way) will be accessed.
 - Jillian – Concerned about state buildings and accessibility.
 - Jill – There is a state ADA coordinator that you can contact to address state buildings and their accessibility.
- Closed Captioning – Mandy and Gina will meet with Jon regarding an ordinance for businesses for posting closed captioning. It will be similar to the one drafted by Portland Oregon.
 - Question – Is this for businesses like restaurants?

- o Gina – We will meet to review the draft ordinance before it goes to the council. Some people from this group may be asked to go before the council and explain the purpose/reason for the ordinance.
- o Question – Can we survey the people who are not present today?
- o Mandy – Yes, we can do that.

Mandy asked the group about the present **meeting time** and if there are any other times that the group may prefer to meet. Discussion took place about prospective times including Wednesday afternoons or Fridays. Members decided that Fridays are too busy around city hall and that parking is challenging.

- o John – We may want to wait until the formal committee is selected to see how the availability of the membership.
- o STRIVE – consumers have programs from 9-5. Fridays are very busy but Wednesdays are good.
- o Jillian, Jim and Bud – Wednesday afternoons are good for them.

Mandy – We will plan on the July 12 meeting as scheduled. At this time, every month is scheduled for the first Wednesday until the end of 2017. Members who are not at today's meeting will also be surveyed about times.

Mandy – The draft of the Mission, Vision, and Values statements sheet was shared with the group. For those who applied for the committee, you may have noted the framework statement of purpose on the committee application is stated very well.

Mandy led a **brainstorming session** of suggested organizations and resources for individuals with disabilities that would be helpful to list on the city's website (with hyperlinks to already-established resource pages).

Members suggested the following:

- o Alpha One
- o Amputee Association of Maine
- o Disability Rights Maine
- o Southern Maine Agency on Aging
- o Goodwill
- o Preble Street
- o Vocational Rehabilitation (State of Maine)
- o STRIVE – PLS (includes next step, strive U, volunteer opportunities)

- o IRIS Network
- o Skew (Learning Disabilities)
- o Maine Parent Federation
- o National Federation for the Blind
- o Cromwell Center
- o Learning Disabilities of Maine
- o Center for Community Inclusion (University of Maine)
- o Local colleges/universities (programs/services/training)
- o Maine Coalition for housing and quality services
- o Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
- o <https://mainehealth.org/provider-directory/m/mcclelland-heather-p>
- o <https://www.understood.org/en>

New Business

- Jim – Announcement regarding an upcoming Solstice event addressing homelessness in Tommy's Park.
- Randy – Expressed some concerns about individuals with disabilities who reside in the shelters and may be veterans related to accessibility.
- Jim – There is a group of people associated with the shelter who meet monthly to discuss issues like those that Randy raised.
- Mandy and Gina will direct Randy's information to the shelter director.
- Bub – There are services for vets in Portland that may be able to help.
- Randy – Will he be having an interview for the committee?
- Mandy – All the applications will be reviewed.
- Gina – Any member of the group is welcome to attend meetings once the committee is formalized. Any person is welcome to attend and make contributions.
- Mandy – all minutes of the meeting will go out soon including the correction to the May meeting minutes.

The next scheduled meeting will take place on July 12 at 11 a.m. in Room 24 with the project team from Tindale/Oliver to hear members of the committee address any questions about accessibility and the city's ADA study.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen B. McPhee
Recreation