



City of Portland
Portland Disability Advisory Committee
City Hall, Room 24
October 4, 2017
Meeting Notes

Bill Campbell, Jr., Chairperson of the Committee, convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

- **Sign in and introduction of Committee members and attendees**
 - *In attendance:* Bud Buzzell, Derek O'Brien, Haley Pass, Bill Campbell, Jr., Karen Perry, Jessica Russell, Steve Leighton, James Devine, Ken Shapiro, Lisette Belanger; ASL interpreter Lisa Masure, Mireille Kabongo.
 - *Absent Committee members:* Hanna Aistrop, John LeMieux, Michelle Ames.
- **Minutes of the September meeting.** Bud Buzzell moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting and seconded by Karen Perry. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes. No corrections were noted.
- **Term limit assignments.** Mandy reminded participants that, at the 9/6/07 meeting, most attendees did not have a preference regarding whether they would have a one- or two-year term. She accommodated those individuals who sought a particular term length and chose the remaining term limits randomly. Mandy encouraged participants to let her, Bill, and Haley know if they would like a different term limit. *Please see summary of term limits at the end of these meeting minutes
- **Brainstorming of new initiatives**

- o Concerns about mobility in public places and concerns about delayed traffic lights, raised by Karen Perry
 - Derek O'Brien: the City is making huge strides on the sidewalks, with frequent repairs. But placing bricks in is frustrating as they will likely need to be replaced in about 5 years. Perhaps brick replacement is not the most functional route to take.
 - Residents and concerned citizens are encouraged to electronically report concerns to Fix It! Portland: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1448/Fix-It-Portland>. Mandy reminded attendees that they are welcome to use her as the conduit for relaying concerns about the City to the appropriate City officials, who will prioritize the concerns among others received.
 - Bud Buzzell and Derek O'Brien both expressed that they would welcome the opportunity to share their concerns with City officials.
 - Ken Shapiro inquired whether there are privately owned sidewalks that would be best addressed by the Committee.
 - Jim Devine shared that he is a frequent user of the Metro system and sees challenges of people trying to get on and off the buses.
 - Karen Perry shared that she heard from GPCOG that no one attended the recent lunch meeting held by GPCOG at the Portland Public Library to solicit feedback from Portland residents on its use of the transit systems. Per the desire of several meeting attendees, Mandy will reach out to Zoe Miller at GPCOG to see if she and others from GPCOG could attend an upcoming PDAC meeting, to learn more about GPCOG's current initiatives and to learn more about how the PDAC attendees can contribute.

- **Resource guide for individuals with disabilities: update**

Mandy shared that she connected with Linda Weare, Director of Elder Affairs, who confirmed with AARP that we will always “own” the data that we gather. The data will be submitted to AARP Maine in a Word document, that enables them to plug the agency information into their format. We will maintain a copy of the document with all of our data on it and may utilize it as we please. In addition, AARP National will provide us a copy of the “Word document” referred to in the instructions for using the AARP template. Again, we may re-use the data online or in other formats moving forward.

Several attendees expressed that they would appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the resources that Jessica Russell and other volunteers provide AARP, which

Jessica indicated she welcomed. Jessica asked that Committee members provide her the names of resources that they would like included in the resource guide.

- **Closed captioning proposal, updates and questions posed**

- Bud spoke with several local businesses and they do have the closed captioning technology.
- Ken raised the following questions:
 - Should at least one television always be turned on by default, even without an individual request? He indicated that this is a good business practice and keeps the volume down throughout the establishment. Others agree but the matter was not resolved. The conversation was tabled until the next meeting.
 - Mandy explained the practical challenges posed by having one television on absent a request, as it may not be the television that is already on.

- **Reminder of upcoming meeting dates:** November 1, December 13th, both from 11 – 12 in Room 24, basement of City Hall

- **New business**

- Email distribution list: no attendees objected to their email addresses being shared among all participants. Mandy to email all participants to ask if they object to their email addresses being shared among the meeting participants. Mandy indicated that she could create a separate email distribution list for Committee members.
- James Devine shared the following information:
 - Homeless Voices for Justice is presenting a Portland City Council Candidates Form on Friday, October 27th at 9:45 am at the Preble Street Soup Kitchen. City Council candidates will be in attendance for a public question and answer session.
 - Homeless Voices for Justice is seeking input from community members on what they would like to see on a homeless bill of rights; they are looking into submitting such a bill to Maine lawmakers. The provided email address for these ideas is hvj@preblestreet.org.

- **Adjournment:** the meeting adjourned at 12 pm.

Members of Portland's Disability Advisory Committee, with Term Limits

Individual Member Residing In Portland

Name	Term Length
Hanna Aistrop	2 years
Lisette Belanger	2 years
Bud Buzzell	1 year
William Campbell Jr.	1 year
John LeMieux	1 year
Karen Perry	1 year
Jessica Russell	2 years

Representative of an Area Organization Serving Individuals with Disabilities

Name	Organization	Term Length
Michelle Ames	Disability Rights Maine	1 year
James Devine	Homeless Voices for Justice	1 year

Steve Leighton	Woodfords-Oakdale Neighborhood Association	2 years
Derek O'Brien	Alpha One	2 years
Haley Pass	STRIVE	2 years
Ken Shapiro	Unum	2 years

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Levine

City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist