



City of Portland
Portland Disability Advisory Committee
City Hall, Room 24
September 6, 2017
Meeting Notes

Mandy Levine, Portland's Workforce Diversity Specialist, convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC) by introducing the committee members of the formalized Portland Disability Advisory Committee.

The PDAC committee members are:

Karen Perry, Steve Leighton (Woodfords-Oakdale Neighborhood Association), Hannah Aistrop, Ken Shapiro (Unum), Haley Pass (STRIVE), John LeMieux (President of Amputee Association of Maine), Michelle Ames (Disability Rights Maine), Bud Buzzell (Absent), Lisette Boulanger (Absent), Derek O'Brien (Alpha One), Jessica Russell, Jim Devine (Homeless Voices for Justice), and Bill Campbell, Jr.

Attendees at the meeting included Debra Bare-Rogers (Disability Rights Maine), Kayla Moore (STRIVE), Patrick (STRIVE), Guest (STRIVE), Linda Weare (Director, City of Portland Elder Services), Cheryl Miner, Stephanie (Interpreter), Mireille Kabonco, and Karen McPhee (Recreation).

Mandy welcomed the new members and meeting attendees. She thanked everyone who participated in the process of applying for membership to the committee and reiterated that any interested person may attend (and are encouraged to attend) the committee meetings even if they were not selected to be a current formal committee member. She would like to have more people attend and participate.

Jon Jennings, City Manager, was unable to attend the meeting but will be attending the next meeting on October 4.

The minutes of the July meeting were moved by John LeMieux and seconded by Jim Devine. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes. No corrections were noted.

Chair and Vice Chair roles: Mandy explained that the chair's responsibilities will include presiding over the meeting, overseeing the annual work plan which will be presented to the city manager, and any other assigned requests. The vice chair will oversee committee meetings when the chair is absent.

Haley Pass indicated that she would be interested in the vice chair position; Bill Campbell volunteered his name for the chair. Committee members unanimously voted to approve both candidates. Mandy will follow up individually with each member about the responsibilities.

Term limits: The committee bylaws state that there will be 11 members but currently there are 13. There are one and two year terms. The majority of the committee members will hold two year terms (8) and one year terms will be held by a minority of the group (5). Michelle indicated that she would like to hold a one year term as did Bill but he is open to holding a two year term if committee members are happy with his leadership. Mandy will do some assignments of terms with members.

Collaboration with Elder Affairs on Resource Guide: Mandy introduced Linda Weare, Director of the City's Elders Services. Linda spoke about the possible collaboration with the committee with her own committee. Her committee is researching services that elders would be in need of or interested in that are aging friendly. Since the PDAC has interest in developing a resource guide for people with disabilities, Linda thought this might be a good project to work on together. AARP has a template that they have made available and will print 100 color copies for free. AARP would update every two years. The Age Friendly initiatives in Maine have 40 communities that are working on providing information about their towns/cities. This project has taken place over the last 2.5 years through surveys and work groups to develop an action plan to identify the needs of Portland residents who are aging. Nationally there are only about 140 or so cities doing this, so Maine is well-represented. The goal is to have an online guide, perhaps on the city website that has a resource listing (which is not currently updated). The guide could be a physical copy but these become outdated so a computer listing might be more helpful.

There are subcommittees of Linda's group if people are interested in helping, especially members of the PDAC. There are 8 measurements of livability in the

guide. The group would have to fill out what applies to aging and what applies to disability. There would also be information pertaining to the State of Maine agencies and organizations as well as those that are Portland specific. Augusta has a completed guide that members may want to check out.

Cheryl Miner would like to be involved in the project. She indicated that she lives on Peaks Island and island residents have unique challenges. Jessica Russell also expressed interest.

After Linda's presentation, the group discussed how the data that we gather would be accessible and if we would "own" this data, as well as whether an online, searchable resource could be created. Mandy and Linda shared their understanding, to be confirmed with AARP, that we would have ready access to the information that we provide and that they strongly suspect we could create a more condensed version of the resource guide for our committee's purposes, that focuses solely on services for individuals with disabilities.

Closed Captioning Update

Gina Tapp, Director of Human Resources, and Mandy met with Jon Jennings, Portland Downtown and the Chamber of Commerce to develop recommendations about the closed captioning proposal. They learned that the Portland business community would likely not be as responsive to a mandated ordinance that required closed captioning being on at all times; instead, the direction we will pursue will be an educational campaign, by which businesses are educated on how to utilize closed captioning technology and encouraged to turn it on upon request. Mandy distributed language that she prepared based upon the review of several cities that put together similar campaigns. (Mandy subsequently emailed this same language to everyone on the PDAC listserv and asked them to provide any feedback by 9/22/17).

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Levine

City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist