



City of Portland  
Portland Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2018

Mandy Levine, Portland's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

- **In attendance:** Yura Yasui, Jessica Russell, Ken Shapiro, Haley Pass, Certified Interpreting ASL interpreter, Kayla Moore, Karen McPhee, James Devine
- **Board members not in attendance:** Lisette Belanger, Bud Buzzell, Michelle Ames, AnneMarie Catanzano, Rabih Dow, John LeMieux, Steve Leighton
  
- October 10, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
  
- Improved parking accessibility: attendees were happy to find that six parking spots on Myrtle Street were designated disabled parking spots for purposes of our PDAC meeting. Mandy shared that additional disabled parking spots will be provided at our monthly meetings.
  
- **Update on Public Service Announcements (PSA)**
  - Mandy shared that they are nearly completed. She received great feedback from Rabih about the content of the audio description.
  - Derek shared that Tom Handel has been working very hard on the PSAs and the amount of work that goes into the revisions.
  - Yura asked whether we should capitalize "deaf" or use "D/deaf" in the audio captioning? Mandy will ask Lisette and Michelle to weigh in.
  - We'd like to all recognize Tom Handel for all of his hard work creating the videos. Mandy will purchase a card for all to sign and we brainstormed purchasing a gift of thanks for him.
  - Mandy will ask Tom Handel to please insert language into the video indicating that the PSAs were created by the Portland Media Center so that he/they receive proper credit for their great work.
  - Yura shared that she is asking her USM graduate students to view her PSAs and to discuss how they are affected. Ken also hopes to share the videos with all of Unum.

- **Creative Trails opening reception**

- Save the date for Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7 p.m., State of Maine Room on the second floor of City Hall (snow date of January 9<sup>th</sup> at same time)
- 50-80 pieces of work will be hung in City Hall rotunda
- Seeking a member of the PDAC Committee to speak for a few minutes - please email Mandy after the meeting if you'd like to speak for about 5 minutes at the event.
- Will be provided copies of postcard invitations to distribute as well as via social media platforms
- Have arranged for ASL interpreter to attend
- Scott Miller attending PDAC meeting on December 5, 2018

- **Speaker series:** update from subcommittee (Rabih, John, Yura)

- The subcommittee has not yet met.
- Mandy indicated that the City is eager to launch the Speaker Series, particularly with many notable speakers having committed to speaking free of charge. Mandy will follow up with the subcommittee and ask that they provide her a proposal to submit to Jon Jennings by November 26<sup>th</sup>.

- **Determination of next major PDAC initiative(s)**

- **Wheelchair simulation event?**

- Ken shared that 12/3/2018 is the International Day of People/Persons With Disabilities, created by the United Nations. At Unum, they will provide wheelchairs to people who sign up and will go about their days in the wheelchairs.
  - i. Mandy to find out if the City Hall lights could be changed to red, white, and blue in recognition and whether the City could issue a proclamation.
- Karen McPhee shared that Black Bear may have wheelchairs available. They have a storage area on Diamond Street.
- Jessica Russell shared that there are several loan closets that may have wheelchairs available to borrow.

- **Fair of local resources and social services?**

- Ken shared that this would be a terrific resource for the community.
- Derek recommended that we connected with University of New England's nursing and OT programs, who may have great resources available.
- There was enthusiasm for integrating the fair with the speaker series.
- Could perhaps incorporate the wheelchair initiative into this.

- Shoot for the spring for a fair, before college students leave in May. Maybe around April.
- **ADA 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary event?**
  - Jessica suggested that we focus on the speaker series and fair this year and then next year, for the ADA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, host an event.
- Derek raised the question of how we can introduce the PDAC Committee to the new Governor, Janet Mills.
  - James Devine shared that the Homeless Voices for Justice has an annual trip to Augusta in the spring and they are able to meet with the Governor for the hour.
- **Upcoming meeting dates**, all from 11 am to 12 pm in Room 24 in the basement of City Hall

**2018**

- December 5<sup>th</sup>

**2019**

- January 9th
  - February 6th
  - March 6th
  - April 3rd
  - May 1st
  - June 5th
  - July 10th
  - August 7th
  - September 4th
  - October 2nd
  - November 6th
  - December 4th
- The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mandy Levine  
City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist