

Burlington Advisory Committee on Accessibility
4-6 pm, September 15, 2015
City Hall, Conference Room 12

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance: Cleary Buckley, Ralph Montefusco, Sam Handy, Shelly Waterman, Emma Allen, Michael Watson, Elaine Zimmerman, Tom Charbonneau, Ned Holt

Committee Members Absent: Ron Redmond

Others in Attendance: Nate Besio (VCIL), Kesha Ram (CEDO), Jon Adams-Kollitz (Parks), Sarah Stickle (First Night)

Meeting commenced at 4:05 pm.

Introduction of committee members and guests, including new committee member Tom Charbonneau. No public forum requests.

Announcements & Updates

There was discussion of a parking problem experienced by a Burlington visitor with a son with a disability, street harassment targeting a person with a visible disability, coordinating with AARP to get a slot on WCAX :30, outreach to the MS Society, a situation involving an accessible spot in a private parking lot, and general review of accessible parking policies.

Members shared their experiences of Art Hop, which has sometimes been difficult to navigate with a disability. The consensus was things had improved with sidewalks, passage, and crowd management, but there was more work to be done in those areas as well as parking and program identification of accessible venues.

Accessible & Universal Park Design

Jon from Parks gave an update on Starr Farm, the latest playground to be redeveloped and open for operation. There are more ramps and an accessible swing. Committee members raised concerns about having better access to the facilities. There was a discussion of cost balance and

upcoming universal projects at Oakledge. The group then discussed ADA playground guidelines, which Vermont does not enforce. Concerns were raised about the message this sends to kids and families. Suggestions were made to include an adult changing table in a future facility and ensure ADA guidelines are part of the RFP process.

City Accessibility Training Update

Tom from Human Resources led a discussion on diversity training taking place among City employees, including online general diversity training and departmental workshops with the Vermont Center for Independent Living.

First Night Update

Sarah came to get feedback as they prepare for First Night on December 31. They addressed a list of past issues and more suggestions were made to have identifiable support staff and large print programs.

Other Business

Suggestions were made to invite Superintendent Yaw Obeng and SEABA to future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.