

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY

Minutes for Tuesday, January 21, 2014

COME TO ORDER at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Members Attending: Ralph Montefusco, Co-Chair, Shelly Waterman, Ron Redmond, Elaine Zimmerman. Nathan “Nate” Besio (VCIL).

Others Attending: Becky Cassidy, Tom Ayres of First Night Burlington.

CHAIR’S REPORTS

1. Discussion of PSA concept and moving forward

- Tom Ayres announces recap of how a snow storm and ice storm creates difficulty of entrance to venues. The city was very successful in cleaning the sidewalks. All members agree that Parks and Recreation and Public Works did an outstanding job. Main Street was pristine and all signals could be seen.
- Shelly comments that accessible parking spots were very available and visible due to website information. Parking and restrooms were mapped out relieving anxiety. As a parent this is very helpful. Ralph added that this can be very useful for general use in the city. Ron thanked everyone and commented that it was nice to work together. At 4:17pm we welcomed Jen Francis.
- Nate Rosario did not have access to *SurveyMonkey* and would like public access. Shelly mentioned that the Facebook page could be useful here. The deaf and hard hearing interpreters available were very useful. The public feedback was very positive. Tom mentioned that this has always been happening and ASL interpretation is funded by the Hannaford foundation.
- Ralph mentioned “Feedback on the survey asking “why do you want to know what our disability is?” This was not a required question and they are all anonymous
- Tom mentioned issues he heard about were two ice slides, one off Universal Unitarianist church and one off Edmonds School. Due to arson fire at College Street church one venue was changed to Champlain College. This show was a very small attendance. Accessibility is tough to create at Champlain College. There is only one entrance and it is not clearly marked. At 4:26pm we welcomed Ned Holt of Parks and Recreation.
- Tom mentioned he will convey appreciation. The survey will continue to be accessible and should spread to more people. Tom mentioned issue raised by Kesha on how to make survey accessible to people with visual disabilities. SurveyMonkey

does not have an apparent audio option. Lin mentioned that enlarged text would be very helpful. Tom will share survey results with Ralph and Kesha. This information should go to city council.

2. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- Brad Stephenson communicated about adding accessibility component to Art Map for the city. Ratings of the venues will be useful. Ron mentioned collaboration between Brad and Montreal.
- Patrick Standon contacted Ralph letting him know he has a strong obligation at St. Mikes and would like to take a leave from committee until May. Ralph is meeting with him on Friday. Another Co-Chair may be necessary. Ron believes that what is happening during meeting time is productive. This committee is efficient and the size of the group is not essential for productivity.
- Producing a PSA system to raise awareness. Peter Crift from accessible adventures mentioned that he can help. Ellen and Champlain employee mentioned that there are many Champlain Students that may be able help out.
- Shelly had a volunteer make the PSA with family that Ralph saw and appreciates the value of. Ideas were brainstormed of different formats. Inclusion and life in the city is very important for PSA. Accessibility on First Night website was immensely helpful. Ralph said he will contact Champlain College and Shelly mentioned she is willing to contribute ideas. Different platforms were mentioned.
- Shelly asked about CCTA and whether that previous conversation could be revisited. She has questions about the bus routes and access to bus routes. There is a misunderstanding between why transportation is set the way it is and those who are trying to use the CCTA bus. Ron added that they are limited and highest concentrations of people are taken into consideration. Lin mentioned Colchester does not contribute to CCTA, so therefore it does not have access. Ralph mentioned that they may have limited run. Concerns for access to this area by adding more routes are a concern. Nate mentioned Pirate Transit and SSTA. Shelly will contact Patrick.
- Disability Awareness day at State House on February 19th. Sally Fox passing is a sad loss for advocacy

3. Public Works

- RFS system operated by customer service is very useful. C-Click Fix is overlapping with RFS for a mobile solution to public problems. This number could be in PSA because people are forgetting about customer service. Many city departments will all be using this new mobile function to address public problems. This will be very valuable in creating understanding of who to call for specific issue. Ron mentioned BPD using data collection services that is very helpful.
- Shelly asked question about how to know who to call when there may be overlap with issues. Ralph mentioned this should be addressed in Public Service Announcement. Ron mentioned Bill would be a great contact. Everyone agrees that knowing who to

call is very important. Ned says this also helps those agencies understand why these calls are coming in.

- Jen mentioned we are working on a draft report to come out February/March that she would love to present at City Hall. Accessible playground at Oak Ledge Park is underway. Julian Lane is leading funding due to the high expense of this playground. Spring will be the beginning of design to present to public in order to start fundraising.
- Ralph concluded meeting with mentioning of election and making sure to bring up Accessibility issues with candidates.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:21 p.m.