

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility

June 21, 2016 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Conference Room 12, Burlington City Hall

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm with Cleary Buckley serving as facilitator for the meeting.

Committee members, City staff, and guests present – Elaine Zimmerman, Nate Besio, Jordan Posner (CCTA), Emma Allen, Ralph Montefusco, Thomas Charbonneau, Leah Soderquist (United Way), Cleary Buckley, Lauren Pyatt, Bradley Stephen (guest), and Michael Watson.

Introductions around the group.

Cleary reviewed the agenda with the group.

Nate Besio added the agenda a discussion about coordinating at ADA Celebration for the committee.

Cleary reviewed the May 2016 Meeting Minutes with the group. Ned Holt motioned to accept the minutes. Michael Watson seconded and it was passed by all.

Floor was opened for public comment.

Public Comment

Bradley Stephen, as a part of the Burlington Access Group, spoke about Kountry Kart Deli's application submittal to build a wheelchair accessible ramp to their store. The application should be going before the License Committee soon. MK Clothing store will be adding a bell to their front entrance that can be used to signal if a customer needs a ramp.

The question was asked if the Accessibility Committee wanted to do anything about the encumbrance issues such as a letter of support or speaking about them during a public forum at City Council.

Cleary suggested that building encumbrance process be an agenda item at the next committee meeting.

ADA Celebration

The anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act is coming up on July 26. VCIL wants to do some sort of event and would be interested in partnering with the committee. They have a budget of \$150 for the event. Doesn't have to be on that exact date, it could be sometime in the week or two following.

Nate Besio suggested that it could be on the waterfront somewhere. Emma Allen offered to reserve the fishing pier if the group would like to hold an event there.

Lauren Pyatt said that there is \$200 available in the CEDO Community Engagement budget that could be used to help with this event.

Appointments

The Mayor's Office is still working on drafting a memo for the reappointments of Ron Redmond, Ned Holt, and Ralph Montefusco and the new appointments of Nate Besio and Gabriel Brunelle.

The appointments and reappointments will likely be voted on at a July City Council meeting.

The question of whether there needs to be a school district representative on the group and if Ben Johnson has stepped down. Lauren will look into that for the group.

Social Media

Ron Redmond has agreed to cover the cost of the committee's Front Porch Forum subscription for the year. The committee sees Front Porch Forum as a necessary outreach tool to increase attendance at meetings and connect with the public. Nate Besio said that VCIL can also repost anything that the committee has go out on Front Porch Forum.

Transportation Topics

Ashley Bryce and Gregg Meyer from the City's Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board could not attend the June meeting and asked to reschedule to attend in July.

Leah Soderquist from the United Way spoke again about the Transit Planning for All project that is starting. The kickoff will be sometime in July. If anyone would like to be a part of the group or knows of people who might like to volunteer, they should contact Leah at leah@unitedwaynwvt.org

Jordan Posner from CCTA spoke about the work that's still being done for the new transit center downtown. All points of access on Cherry down to St. Paul have cutouts. The rest of the area is still being completed. Offered to have the Accessibility Committee take a tour of the new site when it is complete. CCTA is hoping for a completion date in August.

Future transportation topics that the group would like to cover include renting accessible vehicles in Burlington and CarshareVT's accessibility.

Cleary will reach out to Councilor Adam Roof, who is also on the Vehicle's for Hire Board, to see if he can come to the July meeting.

The committee drafted some questions to ask the staff for the City's Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board. They include the following:

- What are the City's policies around transportation for people with disabilities?
- Can vehicles for hire charge different rates for rides for people with disabilities?
- What is the process for handling complaints?
- What are the regulatory mandates for ramped vans?
- What guidelines are they required to adhere to? ADA?
- Are service animals allowed?
- What are the number of vehicles for hire vs. the number of ones that can accommodate wheelchairs?

Cleary will send a copy of the questions to Ashley and Gregg before the meeting and will copy the group.

Lauren brought up the need for the committee to adhere to the Open Meeting Law guidelines and they cannot conduct conversations regarding the committee in group emails. Group discussions and decisions need to be made at public meetings. She will be sending out information related to the Open Meeting Law to the group to review and the group would like to have more information made available to them about the law at the next meeting.

Announcements

Ned Holt said that while visiting Williston recently he discovered that the Williston Police Dept. are the ones that handle all ADA compliance in the city. Suggested that we have parking as an upcoming topic at a meeting and that we discuss the how Burlington's police can get more involved with ADA compliance.

Elaine Zimmerman thanked Michael Watson for his time serving on the Accessibility Committee and his intelligence that he shared with the group. Michael will be stepping down at the end of his term.

Lauren announced that this would be her last meeting staffing the Accessibility Committee for the time being. She thanked the group for allowing her to participate. She will be sending out the minutes for the meeting and that Marcy Krumbine will be the point of contact moving forward.

Accessibility Committee voiced concerns about the fluctuation of staffing they've received over the last several months.

Contemplating writing a letter to the Mayor.

Emma motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Michael.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.