



SPRINGFIELD DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Springfield Disabilities Commission Web Site:

<http://www.springfield.il.us/Commissions/DisabilityComm/index.htm>

Report an Accessibility Problem to the City of Springfield:

<http://www.springfield.il.us/Commissions/DisabilityComm/ReportProblem.htm>

March 10, 2011

MEETING MINUTES

Place: INCIL Office, Rm. 501, 5th Floor Meyer's Building, 1W. Old State Capitol Plaza
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance

Gerard Broeker, Chair; Phillip Litchfield, Vice Chair, Ross D. Silverman, Secretary, Marion Dramin, Jill Steiner, Beverley Beard

City of Springfield Representatives in Attendance

Mike Norris, Department of Public Works

Visitors in Attendance (organization represented)

Pete Roberts (Springfield Center for Independent Living), Diane Ackley, Tracy Maggard, Bobby Hall (Springfield Area Disability Activists (SADA & Capital Community Health Center)), Tyler Mchaley (SADA), Vance Arnold (SADA), Janice L. Smith (SPARC), Kimberley Webster, Mia Abner Morge (translation services)

Color Code:

Green – Next Meeting

Blue – Recommendation

Yellow – Action/Task Assigned

Meeting called to order at 5:45pm

- I. Minutes – Approval of Feb. 10 minutes (JS motion/BB 2nd) – noted one spelling correction to name on list of guests – Minutes approved unanimously.
- II. Old Business:

- a. Report from Subcommittee Chairs
- Access and Transition Committee: Gerard Broeker, Chair
 - Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, at noon at Bennigan's Restaurant (Springfield Hilton), 7th & Adams –
 - Access & Transition Committee meetings will be held Every 4th Wednesday of the month at noon.
 - Mike Norris (Department of Public Works) reports that the street repair plan is being developed for the year. He notes that the city's Springfield Disabilities Commission web site has a link to allow the public to offer input to DPW on issues ranging from bus routes, curb cuts, sidewalks, and other accessibility concerns (see link above). Asphalt street repairs are currently being reviewed, as well as street overlays.
 - Commissioner Beard thanked Mike Norris for work done by city to add sidewalk on Carpenter near 2nd street. This was a 5 foot-wide sidewalk addition, which will become the standard for new sidewalk additions in Springfield, similar to those installed as part of the Iles Ave. road improvement.
 - A discussion was held concerning accessibility issues arising during the recent blizzard. A member of the public reported she was given a ticket by a police officer after she had been hit by a car. The violation was for standing at the curb in the street on S. Grand during blizzard. She discussed how she was unable to use the sidewalk because of ice and snow coverage. Discussion followed. Commissioner Silverman raised concern that, absent a reinterpretation of the enforcement of the relevant laws, it is possible that this situation could be repeated in the future with someone who uses a wheelchair who must enter the street due to unavailable or impassable sidewalks in parts of the city.
 - Education and Health Care Committee: Beverley Beard
 - Starting in April, there will be a new medical director at St. John's Hospital. Commissioners Beard and Silverman recommended setting up a meeting with her after her arrival. Commissioner Silverman offered to work to get that meeting set up.
 - A discussion followed concerning ways to further educate the public on support services available through the hospitals, as well as the development of a handbook for members of the community with disabilities who are entering local medical facilities. Commissioner Beard offered to reach out to the nursing program at Lincoln Land

Community College about offering a training on working with patients in wheelchairs. A suggestion also was raised about setting up a similar meeting with the nursing school at St. John's Hospital.

- Employment Committee: No report

Additional old business:

- 1) At last meeting, motion for Chairman Broeker to meet with mayor. Pete Roberts, as well as members of SADA already had had a meeting with the mayor on the issues. In this meeting, it was requested that a position of full-time ADA coordinator be established. The attendees also were invited to hold a one-hour disabilities awareness training for directors of city departments, with the first planning meeting to be March 11. Such a program could lead to additional opportunities to hold trainings with police, fire and other public employees. The mayor also invited the attendees to put together a booklet on the training, and offered to include that information in the transition book for the next mayor. Commissioner Steiner suggested including in the training information on best practices for service as an ADA coordinator, and training for advocacy for accessibility from within the administration. Furthermore, Chairman Broeker noted his continued intention to meet with the mayor on behalf of the Disabilities Commission.
- 2) Mike Norris discussed with the committee ways to advocate for increased accessibility in and around commercial developments in Springfield. Areas in and around local shopping centers are not clearly defined or set up for pedestrians and those in wheelchairs, and development that occurs in the future needs to be able to accommodate all sorts of travel through the development. People are experiencing significant right-of-way, sidewalk width, and access point difficulties. Currently, there is nothing in our local ordinances requiring these things be part of developments, but adding such requirements has been in discussion for some time. The new IDOT "Complete Streets" initiative will mean that roads in the area will be reexamined or considered to accommodate sidewalks as well as roads. Further discussion ensued.
- 3) Upcoming event announcement: On March 26, from 2-4pm, there will be a Mayoral Candidate's Forum held at First Presbyterian Church, 7th and Capitol. A question regarding the role of the ADA coordinator within the mayor's administration will be one of the questions to be posed to the candidates.
- 4) Accessible taxis – clarification continues to be needed to determine whether there is a local ordinance, state law, or other requirements for taxi fleets to have a certain number of accessible taxis. Vance Arnold noted that a county system is in discussion that would offer similar

services to those being offered within city bus limits by Access Springfield.

III. New Business:

- 1) Documents circulated concerning rally next Tuesday, March 15, at noon in the Capitol Rotunda to raise awareness on the effect on Centers for Independent Living of the Governor's proposed budget. These included a general revenue budget cut of 36%, and a proposal that community reintegration funding be zeroed out. Those applying for the state's home services program may need to be Medicaid eligible with an asset level of \$2000, which creates a disincentive for people who might need such services to pursue employment.

IV. Other Business:

V. Announcements and Comments:

SPARC Sugar & Spice fundraiser – Saturday, March 12, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, from Noon-6pm

VI. Next meeting date: April 14, 2011, 5:30pm, INCIL

Motion to adjourn (BB/JS) – motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm