



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
Buechner Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Road, AH 60005
September 14, 2021
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from August 10, 2021

IV. REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Disability Employment Award
- B. Connections Newsletter
- C. Knights of Columbus Fund Raiser
- D. Brick Sidewalks

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact David Robb, Disability Services Coordinator, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005, (847)368-5793 (Voice), (847)368-5980 (Fax) or drobb@vah.com.



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
9/14/2021

Item: Minutes from August 10, 2021

Department: Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Minutes from August 10, 2021

Type

Agreement

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
COMMISSION FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES**

Draft August 10, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities was called to order by Acting Chair, Roxanne Calibraro at 7:01 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Roxanne Calibraro, Brian Harrison, Sheryl Letwat, Eva Mullinax, Peg McMahon, Seth Goldberg, David McCallum

Absent:

Chair, Michele Ramsey and Jacky McCarty

Also Present:

David Robb, Board Liaison - Disability Services Coordinator

American Sign Language Interpreter:

Stacy Shein-Stapleton

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahon to approve the June 8, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner Goldberg. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS

Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) Robb reported that per the posted Notice for meetings on every Village agenda, he received two requests for auxiliary aids and services in June, both were for Sign Language Interpretation. One was for the Public Hearing on June 9, 2021 hosted by the Plan Commission. The other was for the Village Board of Trustees meeting on June 21, 2021. Both meetings were virtual using the Zoom platform. In addition to the use of Sign Language Interpreters, Village Administration opted to turn on Zoom's new computer-generated Closed Captioning function for the June 21 virtual Board Meeting.

Coordinator Robb received a complaint from the adult daughter of an elderly couple who had recently moved into a senior living community. The community has a shuttle bus service that transports residents to the communal dining facility. However, in this case the husband who uses a power wheelchair was denied access to the service, as the bus was not equipped with a wheelchair lift or ramp for accessibility. Coordinator Robb explained how the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act applies so that the couple could request the community purchase a lift-equipped bus in order to provide equal access to the amenity of the shuttle bus service to all residents. He supplied them the Act, Fair Housing Brochure, and Fair Housing enforcement agency contacts.

Three residents received their new Taxi Identification Cards who needed to get a \$5.00 per ride taxi cab discount.

In July, Coordinator Robb helped a resident apply online for the Illinois Benefit Access Program that gives low-income persons with disabilities Free Rides on Pace, Metra and the CTA. Also provided is a License Plate registration sticker discount good for two years. He also helped a resident whose condo was being foreclosed upon apply for five rent subsidized apartments per the open waitlists available through the Kane County Public Housing Authority. He demonstrated to the resident the best way to find rent subsidized apartments using the website: www.affordablehousingonline.com.

He helped another resident who recently moved into a rent subsidized apartment apply for the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services' Home Services Program that supplies care givers to people with disabilities who need help with their activities of daily living. The resident was initially denied services due to having liquid assets exceeding a value of \$17,500. She has since spent down most of her retirement savings and now qualifies for the help she needs. Another benefit is the cost of the care giver can be applied to her spenddown to qualify for Medicaid each month.

He also met virtually via Zoom with Peter Berg of the Great Lakes ADA Center and Claudia Diaz of the ADA National Network in celebration of the 31st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He spoke about how he has benefitted professionally from the resources available through the ADA National Network and the Great Lakes ADA Center and what a great resource they have been for several decades.

He met with Patty Mangano, Senior Management Analyst at Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning (CMAP). She wanted to learn about things Arlington Heights had done and was doing towards more fully integrating the needs of people with disabilities into the community. She wished to share the information with other communities to help them take similar steps in becoming more inclusive communities.

On July 21, the DSC attended a FEMA Disability Stake Holder Call hosted by Linda Mastandrea, Director of FEMA's Office of Disability Integration & Coordination. She co-hosted the meeting with Reyna McCoy McDeid, Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living. They talked about the 31st Anniversary of the ADA on talked about all the work that still needs to be done. She hosts the Stake Holders Call once a month. The DSC encouraged commissioners to participate in the calls should they be interested.

Commissioner Calibraro reported that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services along with the Department of Justice put out a 65-page document that fully explains that long-hull COVID may be considered a long-term disability due to the ongoing medical complications of those who have had COVID with major health problems.

Commissioner Goldberg reported that a jury awarded a \$125 million settlement to a former Wisconsin Walmart employee in a disability bias case. The employee had worked for Walmart for 18 years. Walmart implemented a new scheduling system that tracked when the store would be the busiest or not. The store decided they could no longer accommodate this worker so they fired her.

Commissioner Harrison reported that on August 24 the Paralympics start. He will forward the schedule to Coordinator Robb to forward to Commissioners. Commissioner McMahon suggested that we cheer for Tatianna McFadden. She has Spina Bifida and competes in track and field. She was born in Russia and lived as an orphan for 6 years. She stood out as she walked on her hands and now attends the University of Illinois. She is featured in the Netflix original Rising Phenix Documentary on the Paralympics. She has won 17 Olympic Medals.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS AWARD

Coordinator Robb reported that Nancy Kluz retired after 30 years and now we have a new Communications Coordinator, Avis Meade. She posted the Press Release announcement of the award on social media. The deadline is Friday August 27 and no nominations have been received to date. He suggested Commissioners go in person to businesses they know who employ people with disabilities and encourage them to do a self-nomination.

B. CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Coordinator Robb mentioned that at the last Commission Meeting the Commission agreed to go with a theme on scams for the next Connections newsletter. With COVID there have been a lot of scams. People with disabilities are often targeted by scammers. Because there is such a wealth of information on the topic resources pertaining to scam prevention and precautions would be good to include. Also, an article with a few anecdotes on how not to be scammed would be interesting

C. Knights of Columbus Fund Raiser

Commissioner Goldberg reported that we are set up to collect at the North Point Jewel. The Knights are asking for full coverage for the time slots on September 17 and 18 starting at 7:00 a.m. We will have a signup sheet for **Friday the 17th at 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday the 18th from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Coordinator Robb will send out the sign-up sheets. He encouraged Commissioners to get their family and friends to volunteer to help fill all the time slots. At least two people are needed for each time slot to cover both doors. Three people would be ideal to cover the exit doors in the middle. Coordinator Robb will contact the Knights of Columbus to update them on our status and to ask for more time to get our volunteers signed up for the dates.

D. Brick Sidewalks

Coordinator Robb described the events leading up to the addition of brick paver sidewalks to the agenda. At the last meeting he said that he would gather information from the Engineering Department on construction and maintenance costs between poured concrete sidewalks and brick paver sidewalks. Part of the discussion was that Coordinator Robb has received complaints over the years about brick paver and concrete sidewalks in disrepair. The Village has been good about making repairs to sidewalks when he has received reports from residents. Engineering reported that brick pavers in the downtown area cost approximately \$21 a square foot to install compared to poured concrete sidewalks that cost \$16 a square foot to install. Because the Public Works Department repairs sidewalks as part of their regular duties the cost of repairs are not itemized by type of sidewalk being repaired. The replacement cost

is the same as installation costs for each. Engineering said that it was a Village Board decision to go with the paver brick sidewalk option.

Commissioner Mullinax asked if the Commission could make a recommendation to the Board. Coordinator Robb clarified that it is the Commission's charge to make recommendations to the Board. A discussion ensued. Commissioner McMahon suggested recommending that when sidewalks are replaced that they be replaced with poured concrete sidewalks instead of paver bricks. Another suggestion was to recommend poured concrete sidewalks bordered by paver brick accents. The poured concrete with pavers on the side would be a better application for use and upkeep. Commissioner Goldberg commented on the new sidewalks by the Train Station, by the Pace Bus Stop and on Evergreen by Passero's. Coordinator Robb said that he would go take a look them and perhaps they could use pictures from these places as part of their recommendation to the Board.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner McCallum reported that he had trouble navigating the Alfresco Zone downtown. He didn't know where to walk and couldn't use the sidewalks. He parked in the parking lot across the street from Jewel and it was a long way to walk to get into Peggy Kinnane's. Commissioner Goldberg commented that there are ramps to access the sidewalks. He said there are either direct openings from the street or there are ramps to go into the stores. You have to walk in the street. They have the sidewalks cordoned off for restaurant seating and you're supposed to walk in the street. Signage with the International Symbol for Accessibility (wheelchair symbol) is posted near the ramps to identify their location from the street. Commissioner Mullinax commented that not all people with disabilities identify with the wheelchair symbol for accessibility. Commissioner McCallum concurred. Coordinator Robb mentioned that there is Reserved Parking for people with disabilities in the Vail Avenue Garage. It is a half a block from Peggy Kinnane's. Commissioner Calibraro mentioned that she had trouble navigating the Alfresco Zone as well as her Guide Dog was trained not to walk in the street so she (her dog) didn't know where to go. She called the restaurant and they met her in the street with her order.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Goldberg, seconded by Commissioner Letwat. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.