



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
Buechner Room
33 S. Arlington Heights Rd, AH, IL 60005
August 10, 2021
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from June 8, 2021

IV. REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

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
8/10/2021**

Item: Minutes from June 8, 2021

Department: Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Minutes from June 8, 2021	Minutes

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

Draft June 8, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Arlington Heights Commission for Citizens with Disabilities was called to order by Chair Michele Ramsey at 7:04 pm online via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Michele Ramsey, Chair
Roxanne Calibraro, Brian Harrison, Sheryl Letwat, Eva Mullinax, and Peg McMahon.

Absent:

Seth Goldberg, David McCallum, and Jacky McCarty

Also Present:

David Robb, Board Liaison - Disability Services Coordinator

Guests:

Keith Morens, and Melissa Cayer

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. A motion was made by Commissioner Calibraro to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as written, seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

IV. REPORTS

Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) Robb reported that a business sought to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for their Reserved Parking spaces for people with disabilities. The Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) Reserved Parking Space dimensions exceed ADA space dimensions and therefore provides greater access. Adding an ADA "Van Accessible" sign to one of the required IAC Accessible Parking Spaces would meet both ADA and IAC requirements.

A resident whose spouse uses a wheelchair was asking for an on-street reserved parking space in front of her townhouse. She had received a parking citation for violation of the on-street parking restriction enforced from 2:00 am to 5:00 am. The Village provides an exception to the parking restriction via a notification to the Police Department for up to 3 nights per month. The Police Department also provides an ongoing exception from the parking restriction when a residence does not have off-street parking. This resident has a garage and a driveway to park in so she was not qualified for the on-street exemption.

A resident with a disability living in a large apartment complex was denied her request for a reserved parking space. Property management denied the request on the basis that they had all the reserved parking spaces required by code. Coordinator Robb explained

that under the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 residents with disabilities living in multifamily housing may request the reasonable accommodation of a close parking space reserved for their sole use. This goes beyond reserved parking spaces required by code. Coordinator Robb discussed it with the property manager who agreed to post a parking space for the resident. Management also agreed to develop a protocol for the resident to contact the 24/7 emergency maintenance number to request the removal of unauthorized vehicles parked in her reserved parking space. Management agreed to do it for this resident and several others who had made similar requests.

Village engineers contacted Coordinator Robb as they were asked to respond to a regional survey that was being conducted to identify communities who had ADA Transition Plans. A regional report titled: End of the Sidewalk found that from over a hundred and thirty communities across the region only 22 communities had posted their ADA Transition Plans online. Coordinator Robb said he was disappointed to see that Arlington Heights was not included on the list of those who had ADA Transition Plans. As Arlington Heights was one of the first communities in the Nation to have completed their ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan in 1990 and 1992 with all projects completed by 1995. He had the historical documents posted to the Village website for good measure and supplied the link and information to the Engineering Department for their response to the survey request.

Commissioner Calibraro reported that the Air Carriers Access Act was changed to align with the ADA definition for service animal which is defined as a service dog and sometimes miniature horses. This was done to exclude people from bringing onboard their emotional support animals ranging from peacocks to lizards and other exotic animals of many different types. People can still take pets on board the airplane but they must pay from \$125 to about \$450 each way. The bad part of the new requirements is that people traveling with service dogs must preregister before each flight, something that was not required before. The form was originally accessible but when each airline reposted their version of the form accessibility was lost in the process. Making it that much more frustrating to passengers trying to comply with the new requirements that are onerous to begin with.

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the ADA. There are a number of new ADA consent decrees that have been added to www.ada.gov. Also where you will find other important ADA resources.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **PROGRESS CENTER PRESENTATION**

Coordinator Robb thought it was a good presentation, Chair Ramsey concurred and mentioned that it was good information with personal stories. Coordinator Robb went on to say that one of the reasons for having Progress Center give the presentation was to see if it might be a presentation to offer to Village staff. Human Resources opted to go with JJ's List per an online presentation to directors and supervisory staff on May 17th. The feedback from the Health Director was that the presentation was well done and helpful. Several Commissioners commented that they knew of JJ's List. Commissioner Calibraro asked if we could do a community presentation as well. Coordinator Robb said we could and have JJ's list do a presentation and or have commissioners with disabilities be members

of a panel or a combination of the two groups. A discussion ensued with Commissioner Letwat stating the importance of disability etiquette. Coordinator Robb suggested hosting a Spring presentation since the commission is already doing a fall event and summer isn't a good draw for presentations. Several Commissioners expressed agreement with hosting a Spring presentation. Coordinator Robb said that in lieu of the March meeting the commission could host a community presentation. Commissioners who wish to be presenters could be members of the panel and others with disabilities could be invited to be on the panel as well. Commissioners Calibraro and Harrison offered to be on the panel.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT WARENESS AWARD

Chair Ramsey mentioned the need to start planning for the annual award coming up this fall by advertising for it and nominations. Coordinator Robb reported that he has updated the nomination form and set the deadline for nominations for Friday August 27th. He will write an advertisement to do a social media blast for the 1st week of August. This will contain the annual theme and information on how to nominate a business.

Commissioner Calibraro mentioned that her and commissioner McMahon were at Peggy Kinane's Restaurant and spoke with Dereck the owner. Derek said he was giving a going away speech on Sunday and would be encouraging every business to hire people with disabilities as he strongly supports it himself and how important it is for the community. The outdoor celebration will run from noon until 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Letwat announced that Clearbrook is eliminating her position but keeping her on and she is going back to employment. She will be doing community job development for placements as the workshops are going away by 2023.

Commissioner Calibraro asked what happened at the Lighthouse, they took away the Living Skills Day Program. Commissioner Letwat said that she didn't know but piece work can no longer be offered as people with disabilities were being paid pennies for the work that they did. Her job will be to find jobs for a certain group of those who were doing the piece work. Commissioner Calibraro mentioned that there was an article in the Tribune about it. The program has been around for 50 years and now the people who are blind are sitting at home and doing nothing. Commissioner Letwat said it is a big change for a lot of people.

B. CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Coordinator Robb suggested that we go with a theme for the next newsletter to narrow down the scope of topics. He suggested that with COVID there has been a lot of misinformation and scams perpetrated on the public. So the theme for the next newsletter could be on how to recognize scams and what to look out for including community resources available as a recourse for those who have been scammed. Commissioner Letwat shared a story about how her Dad almost got scammed. Commissioner Calibraro having had worked for the Better Business Bureau heard story after story of people scammed as they hadn't done their due

diligence before handing their money over to the scammers. A discussion ensued with several commissioners talking about the various scams perpetrated on unsuspecting others. Coordinator Robb asked Commissioners to each write a 50 to 100-word article on scams to be aware of and to submit these to him before the end of July.

C. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUND RAISER

Coordinator Robb said it is typically the 3rd week of September. He will coordinate with commissioner Goldberg who usually interfaces Knights regarding the place and dates to collect. As we get closer to the date coordinator Robb will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers. The event is planned for September 17, 18, and 19 for the Illinois dates.

D. BRICK SIDEWALKS

Commissioner Harrison reported that he had heard that the Village was moving to put in more brick sidewalks and he was concerned about it. Coordinator Robb said that paver brick sidewalks are allowed. But over the years he has had several complaints from individuals with disabilities on paver brick sidewalks in disrepair. He suggested that residents may report sidewalks in disrepair, and the Village will repair them. Some complaints he had heard were from wheelchair users who complained that brick sidewalks cause a washboard effect when rolling over them. Also heard people with visual disabilities who reported stubbing their white canes on the brick pavers more often than on poured concrete sidewalks. He went on to say that any sidewalk in disrepair may be a tripping hazard.

Several Commissioners commented and a discussion ensued. Commissioner Calibraro reported that sidewalks in the downtown area seem to be under repair every summer with different trades doing different jobs on the repairs. Sometimes the repairs are being done on both sides of the street at the same time leaving her nowhere to walk. She also noted that when the temperatures are between freezing and 35 degrees water freezes in the seams and the brick paver sidewalks are more slippery than concrete sidewalks.

Commission McMahon commented on conversations she has had with her civil engineer friend who cites Illinois weather as not being the best suited to this application and that other pressed brick applications have not held up as well either when compared to concrete sidewalks. Commissioner Mullinax mentioned the annual costs of maintenance as a factor that could be explored further.

Chair Ramsey suggested researching a cost comparison between annual maintenance costs of standard concrete sidewalks with paver brick sidewalks to see if there is a difference. Coordinator Robb said that he could check on maintenance costs of the different types of sidewalks and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Calibraro added that she would like to know how long the maintenance contracts are good for as the workers continue to come back year after year in April to work on the pavers. Coordinator Robb said that he could check on that as well with Public Works.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A ECONOMIC DISCLOSURE STATAEMENTS

Coordinator Robb reported that the Village Clerk added the item to the agenda to alert commissioners who have not yet submitted their statements to her for the year. Commissioner Mullinax said that she thought she had submitted it but will forward a copy to the Village Clerk.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner McMahon, seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.