



Agenda
Village of Arlington Heights
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
Buechner Room-33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd., AH

February 8, 2022
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of January 11, 2022 Minutes

IV. REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Disability Awareness Presentation
- B. Connections Newsletter

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Citizens with Disabilities Day Sponsorship

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
2/8/2022

Item: Approval of January 11, 2022 Minutes

Department: Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Approval of January 11, 2022 Minutes	Minutes

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

Draft – January 11, 2022

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 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Michele Ramsey, Chair, David McCallum, Brian Harrison, Sheryl Letwat, Eva Mullinax, Peg McMahon, and Seth Goldberg

Absent:

Jackie McCarty, Roxanne Calibraro

Also Present:

David Robb, Board Liaison - Disability Services Coordinator

Guest:

Melissa Cayer

American Sign Language Interpreter:

Stacy Shein-Stapleton

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Goldberg to approve the November 9, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner McMahon. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS

Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) Robb reported that he received a complaint from a lady who lives in a high-rise building. She has a seizure disorder and felt that the sounding of the fire alarm caused her seizures. She asked the property management for an accommodation and they replaced the audible alarms in her unit with a “Silent Call” that would activate a bed shaker, instead of an audible alarm/strobe light.

He checked with the Property Manager and Village’s Fire Safety Inspector familiar with the situation. He also contacted the Silent Call Company and learned more about how their device worked. The tenant complained of a recent fire alarm she felt had caused her to have a severe seizure, landing her in the hospital.

The Property Manager invited a friend of the tenant to be present as the Alarm Company tested the system. When tested the fire alarms from the hallway and adjoining apartment could be clearly heard. It was felt that those outside alarms sounding might have been the cause of her seizure.

Subsequent to the system test the DSC learned that the Fire Safety Code does not require fire alarms in individual apartment, but must be hard wired for a future installation of an alarm for tenants with disabilities needing an accommodation. The DSC reported this information to the tenant and advised her that she could ask property management to silence the fire alarms in adjoining apartments where they are not required by Code in addition to her initial accommodation request. The tenant opted not to further pursue the issue at this time.

He also met with an elderly couple in need of a wheelchair ramp. He went out to their home, took measurements and drew a rough sketch of how best to ramp the home. He supplied them with a list of Accessibility Contractors and Home Modification funding resources.

Lindsay Dohse, Community Health Nurse and member of the Village's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee asked the DSC for resources on Braille as she had reported January is Braille Awareness Month. The DSC compiled a comprehensive list of Braille resources and referrals and supplied them to Lindsay. The renamed DEI to Inclusivity Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Committee then shared the Braille Celebration information via a Village wide email titled: National Braille Awareness Day. It included information about National Braille Awareness Day and a Braille message translated that means "Be Kind to Others."

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. DISABILITY AWARENESS PRESENTATION

Coordinator Robb reported speaking with Tricia Luzadder of JJ's List earlier in the day. They set a tentative date and time of Wednesday, March 9 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, for a live interactive training. To recap they have two charges including \$850 for the live-in person training or \$700 for the online remote training. The remote training is via Zoom and they can do up to 200 people on the Zoom call. She also said that at present due to COVID-19 they are more comfortable doing the Zoom over in-person but may do in-person live again as the COVID-19 numbers go down. She also stressed that should we opt to do a remote training online that we could do the training anytime. The remote training includes a prerecorded video that is shown as part of the live presentation with her players (presenters). They can take questions via the Zoom chat functions that they can answer at the end of the presentation. In addition, James McCalister suggested having a live presentation at the Senior Center and also offering it as a Zoom event for those wishing to attend, but not in-person. To recap we would advertise using the Village's social media accounts with special invitations going to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Village Trustees.

Commissioner Goldberg questioned the time of the event, and cited that it might be a difficult time for people to attend. Coordinator Robb explained why the 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. time was chosen but indicated that he will look into getting an earlier time to host the event. Commissioner McCallum asked if the Zoom presentation would be recorded so we could make it available for people not able to attend to view later. Coordinator Robb said he will find out if that is possible. After further discussion Coordinator Robb said he will see if an earlier time during the day is available and

asked a show of hands of Commissioners who could attend an afternoon presentation. Five commissioners could attend an afternoon training. Coordinator Robb will check back with JJ's List and the Senior Center and update commissioners when he knows more.

B. CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Coordinator Robb handed out several draft copies of the Connections Newsletter that has not been finished yet. He intends to include an advertisement on the upcoming JJ's List Presentation. Several articles from the last edition were still in the newsletter.

VI NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Goldberg asked about Frontier Days. Coordinator Robb reported receiving two letters from Frontier Days Inc., stating that they are planning an event but it is not yet formalized. Once it is formalized, they will be reaching out to the Commission again to ask us to sponsor the Citizens with Disabilities Day Event this year. We will put it on the February Agenda. The event is planned for June 30 through July 4.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Ramsey mentioned the downtown sidewalks and curbs were terrible after the last big snow. Commissioner Harrison reported that the curb cuts by his apartment were impassable. Commissioner Goldberg reported that at the Jewel parking lot the plows filled the Reserved Parking Spaces with snow. Coordinator Robb advised that the Building & Life Safety Department has authority to enforce snow removal from Parking Spaces Reserved for people with disabilities. Chair Ramsey said that the downtown area was still full of snow several days after the snow fall. Coordinator Robb reported that the Village does clear snow in parts of the Central Business District. He also mentioned that in 2004 the Commission recommended having a snow removal ordinance. Village administration suggested the Commission undertake a community awareness campaign instead to encourage people to shovel their sidewalks and corners. Kevin Corcoran produced a video with Commissioner Jack Cunningham and his guide dog Kaplan that has been aired on the Cable Access Channel each winter since it was created. Coordinator Robb also mentioned the Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Regional Snow Removal Report. He will forward it via email to Commissioners.

Commissioner McMahon said that the snow removal downtown around stores and entrances just wasn't done or was poorly done 5 to 7 days after it snowed. She also mentioned that the little machine that brushes the sidewalk was done by the closed bank but did not do anything near the restaurants where people were having trouble walking. Chair Ramsey said the corners weren't done at the cross walks making it very difficult for anyone to cross the street.

Coordinator Robb clarified that for snow removal Village Property Maintenance Inspectors only enforce snow removal from Accessible Parking Spaces when plows pile it into the parking spaces.

Commissioner McCallum raise the issue of the difficulty some people with disabilities encounter when using curb ramps. Several Commissioners mentioned that adding yellow paint to the hazardous parts of ramps may help to alleviate a trip hazard for some with low vision. Coordinator Robb mentioned the ADA Standards and that they are not always followed in the way that they were meant to be followed. Also, that should a Commissioner encounter an accessibility issue they should report it so it can be evaluated for compliance to help remedy any issues identified.

Commissioner Goldberg reported on an issue he had at Deer Park Shopping Center where the access aisle and curb ramp was not lined up to allow direct access to the sidewalk but rather forced people to walk in the street. He complained to property manager of the shopping center and showed him the problem. They changed it so now the access aisles line up directly with the curb ramps allowing direct access to the sidewalk, as it should have been done in the first place. He sees the same issue in many places still.

Commissioner Harrison asked whose responsibility is it to clear the public sidewalks. Coordinator Robb answered and said there is no ordinance requiring home owners to shovel their sidewalks. It is up to the property owners to clear sidewalks and this is why it is important for the Village to encourage property owners to shovel their walks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner McMahon, seconded by Commissioner Goldberg. Motion passed by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.