

**Minutes – Regular Meeting  
DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION  
October 28, 2015 7 p.m.  
Main Public Library Small Meeting Room**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

Present: Scott Kozicki, Kate Yannias, Erica Henry, Stephanie Browning, Helen Kossler, Suzen Riley and Jen Kovar

Staff Liaison: Tammie Grossman and Steve Cutaia

Quorum: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

**Ongoing Business**

Steve reported that he dealt with OP Library bathrooms and handed out attorney general form. Scott suggested that we get the State's Attorney Office to attend meeting.

Suzen - thought that the senior services offices was not good for her wheelchair.

Farmer's Market - worked out well.

Linda - send out survey to commission

**Welcome Non-commissioners and New Commissioners**

**Agenda**

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda for the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the agenda was approved with the removal of "Ongoing Business".

**Minutes**

It was moved and seconded by Commissioners Yannis and Browning to accept and approve the October 28, 2015 minutes.

**Non Agenda Public Comments**

Helen gave an overview of the Chair Meeting that she attended on Scott's behalf. On April 28, 2015 there will be a volunteer appreciation meeting. Helen also reported that she learned about the Diversity Dinners that are sponsored by the Community Relations Commission. She suggested that it would be a good idea for the Disability Access Commission to sponsor a dinner that would include people with disa

Diversity Dinners - CRC Opportunity - Need to talk to Cedric

Photo from each commission and a statement by the Chair on what they have accomplished.

TG gave an overview of OP Station Project

**New business**

1. **Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL)** –

- The Center connected with Forest Park Chamber would like to connect with OPRF Chamber.
- Employment opportunities for People with Disabilities:

- Sometimes they don't do well in the interview process. Several Forest Park businesses, such as Ferrarra Pan Candy. Edward Jones Madison Ave., have been working as community partners and marketing employees to those businesses. Main Marketing for People with Disabilities and families represent a Trillion dollar market.
- People with Disabilities reliable works: Promotes an inclusive work environment and will promote the businesses. Tax breaks are available to those businesses. Trial work period - 12 weeks at no cost to the business. DORS is paying the salary. Paid internship in PCIL. Intern will be shadowed by professional to help them get acclimated to the job environment. Completion of 12 weeks could present a job offer. If not, business is required to give constructive criticism with the reasons why it didn't work. Put it out the end of November. Database will be available towards the end of December.

**Action Item** - Help coordinate with the OPRF Chamber and encourage more businesses to join.

2. Systemic Issues –

- For example, the State of Illinois not having a budget.
- Budget issues related to accessibility improvements. Businesses don't think they have to change. Issues related to accessibility always give them the option of a portable ramp. Concern over one step entrances. Steve Cutaia explained that businesses with old buildings do not have to bring their business up to current ADA standards but if they touch something have to fix it.
- Kate said that Cook County requires reasonable accommodations. So a bell with a portable ramp is very cheap.
- Larry working accessibility issues in Library; there are tables in bathroom stalls. Steve will contact Library about removing the tables.
- Steve Cutaia state that the States Attorney is responsible for enforcement and at the next meeting he will bring a form for filing complaints with States Attorney office.

**Action Item** - Recognize businesses that support People with Disabilities, those having access and holding informational sessions to bring awareness.

3. Reviewed Farmers Market Event

- Commission will want to distribute Surveys, a one-pager on the Disability Access Commission (staff will need to work with Communications on this), and coloring pages and crayons. Linda DeViller will get the information and documentation together and give to Helen to bring to the Market.

4. WorkPlan – the 2016 Work Plan was moved and seconded by Commissioners Kossler and Henry to accept and was passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting Location and Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Main Public Library.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.