

# City of Columbia, Missouri

*701 E. Broadway  
Columbia, Missouri*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, November 14, 2024

3:00 PM

Regular

City Hall

Council Chambers

701 East Broadway

Columbia, Missouri

**Disabilities Commission**

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Jacque Sample called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

(John Bowders, Rene Powell appeared virtually)

Staff Present: Adam Kruse

No members of the public appeared in person. No members of the public appeared virtually.

## II. INTRODUCTIONS

### Statement by Chair on Virtual Participation

Jacque Sample makes a statement on virtual participation and reminds participants to keep cameras on.

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Kieta Clay made a motion to approve the agenda. Vera Elwood seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.**

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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**Andrea Lisenby made a motion to approve the minutes. Kieta Clay seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

## V. SPECIAL ITEMS

Discussion on Housing with Randy Cole, CEO of the Columbia Housing Authority, and Rebecca Thompson, Housing and Neighborhood Services Director for the City

Randy Cole introduces himself and discusses the Columbia Housing Authority. It is a separate legal entity from the City, but the Board is comprised of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor. As an organization, the Columbia Housing Authority offers affordable housing, oversees the county allotment of Section 8 vouchers and provides supportive services to members of the community. The organization has an estimated 750 units and serves around 1900 households. Randy discusses their Moving Ahead Program, which is an after-school and summer program for youth in the community and it includes transportation from school to the program. Another service CHA offers is for veterans, including rental vouchers and housing units at Patriot Place. Randy says that there is currently a 98% occupancy level, which is great for the community to be utilizing these assets, but it also speaks to the demand for affordable housing. Some of the upcoming projects for the Housing Authority include a project near Garth and Sexton, which will add 25 housing units and will have a similar design to historic homes in the area. Another project is along Grand, which will include duplexes and some of which will be 1-bedroom units. The Commission members further discussed the Columbia Housing Authority including issues on funding, transportation, wait lists and prioritizations.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### Disability Issues Candidate Forum on October 28

Jacque Sample provides an update, that all 5 house district candidates were present for the forum as well as both senate positions. The event lasted approximately one and a half hours long. Jacque believes that a recording of the event is still available on social media.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### Elections - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary

Adam Kruse provides an overview of the 3 positions and their roles on the Commission: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary. Adam provides an overview of the annual election process for the commission. The Commission discusses the position of Chair.

**Ann Marie Gortmaker makes a motion to elect Jacque Sample as the Chair of the Commission. Jonathan Asher seconds the motion. All in favor; motion approved.**

The Commission discusses the position of Vice-Chair.

**Jacque Sample makes a motion to elect Jonathan Asher as Vice-Chair of the Commission. Patrika Brown seconds the motion. All in favor; motion approved.**

The Commission discusses the position of Secretary.

**John Bowders makes a motion to elect Patrika Brown as Secretary. All in favor; motion approved.**

### Discussion on accessibility concerns with downtown sidewalks, including feedback from Encircle

Jacque Sample discusses concerns with outdoor seating areas, and that some of these downtown are obstructing into the clear space needed for pedestrians. The Commission members discussed this issue. The Commission members would like to learn more about the requirements under the ordinances. Members also discussed potentially creating outreach material for businesses about what is required. The Commission members also discussed an email that the City received from Encircle, an educational program within Woodhaven, which talked about some of the issues the group identified to improve accessibility of pedestrian walkways. The Commission members discussed these concerns directly including trash and debris, using blended transition curb ramps versus directional curb ramps and a discussion on audible pedestrian signals. The Commission members wished to keep this as an agenda topic for the December meeting.

### Transit Training on ADA and Title VI

Adam Kruse discussed that he annually provides legal and disability-related training for transit on the ADA and Title VI. In addition to his regular training, he will discuss service animal etiquette with the staff.

### Remembering Dawn Zeterberg

The Commission discussed opportunities to honor longtime Commission member Dawn Zeterberg who recently passed away. Patrika Brown raised an idea that maybe the City could recognize Dawn post-mortem as part of the Chuck Graham Disability Ambassador Award. Cathy Dolles discussed Christy Welliver's memorial at Stephens Lake Park and believed that might be a nice thing to honor Dawn. Commission members discussed other memories of Dawn and ideas. Jacque Sample discussed the idea of awarding local businesses and restaurants an award recognizing accessibility and this award could be called a "Dawn Z" in honor of Dawn's work and presence in the community. Vera Elwood discussed this idea further as it was something Vera learned more about at the ADA Symposium, and that an organization that did this started with restaurants and branched out to other things like movie theaters and other businesses. Rene Powell agreed and said that Empower Ability in Springfield, Missouri has something like this. The Commission members liked this idea. Patrika Brown said she loved the idea and thinks the logo should be an image of a wheelchair with a flag on it similar to Dawn's chair. The Commission members would like to further explore this idea, and to keep that on a future

agenda.

**VIII. REPORTS**

Future Agenda Items

Adam Kruse provides an update that the City's Consultant to review the City's Complete Streets Policy, and the consultant will be here in December. Also, Trina Hays will present. Trina is a state certified professional as a liaison for law enforcement when dealing with people experiencing severe mental health issues. The Commission wished to invite Nikki Davis from the Downtown CID to be present for the discussion on outdoor seating areas.

Chair

No report.

Staff

Adam Kruse says a vacancy for the Commission will be posted on November 20.

Public Transit Advisory Commission

No report.

MU Chancellor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Ann Marie Gortmaker says there was not a meeting.

Safe Streets for All Working Group

No report.

Airport Steering Committee

No report.

**IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Ann Marie Gortmaker comments that there has been no change yet to the entry of Gumby's, it is still not accessible for people who use wheelchairs.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

December 12, 2024

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Kieta Clay made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan Asher seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.**