

City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Disabilities Commission

Thursday, December 14, 2023

City Hall

Council Chambers

Regular

3:00 PM

701 East Broadway

Columbia, Missouri

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jacque Sample called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Present: 9 – Jonathan Ashaer, John Bowders, Patrika Brown, Cathy Dolles, Vera Elwood, Ann Marie Gortmaker, Rene Powell, Jacque Sample, Dawn Zeterberg

Excused: 3 – Kieta Clay, Hazel Fields, Sonya Johnson

Unexcused: 0 – None

(John Bowders, Patrika Brown appeared virtually)

Staff Present: Adam Kruse

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

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rene Powell made a motion to approve the agenda. Ann Marie Gortmaker seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DRAFT November 9, 2023 Disabilities Commission Meeting Minutes

Members of the Commission wished to amend the November minutes by removing the duplicate listing of “Cathy Dolles” name in the attendance portion. **John Bowders made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Dawn Zeterberg seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rene Powell abstained from voting.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

Speakers Schedule for Disabilities Commission

Jacque Sample reviews what was added to the speakers schedule from last month, including the Airport to March, Fire Department to June. Other inclusions will be David Seamon, Columbia Public Schools, to July, as well as University of Missouri Diversity, Equity Inclusion Officer Maurice Gipson in August. Rene Powell suggests the Commission should also target speakers with disabilities to provide input to the Commission, that these could come from Oak Towers, Paquin, Freedom House, and Opportunity House. Jacque Sample adds this to the schedule in April. The Commission members wished to include a “Future Agenda” category to reports to allow members an opportunity to discuss agenda plans for the next meeting. The Commission members generally finalize the 2024 proposed speaker schedule with the understanding that changes may be made along the way.

Strategic Plan Scheduled Discussions

Jacque Sample discusses progress reports to City Council on the COMO Access Plan and an idea for a survey of the Commission members of to rate progress. The Commission discusses the best way to gather information in the form of a survey. Ann Marie suggests a survey might be more manageable if it is completed twice a year, rather than quarterly. Commission members tentatively propose a mid-year check in for June and end of year check-in for December.

Commission members reviewed the current proposal for an annual speakers' schedule for the Disabilities Commission. John Bowders proposed some changes for Vision Zero to be added to December, the Airport to be added to March, and Fire Department to be added in June. Jacque Sample proposed adding the Great Plains ADA Center in July. Commission members discussed adding Amber Cheek, ADA Coordinator for Mizzou, to the schedule. Ann Marie Gortmaker suggested adding the ADA Coordinator from Columbia Public Schools. Cath Dolles suggested including Public Health and Human Services. Another topic members discussed was curb cuts and snow plows. Jacque Sample suggested that the Commission should try to finalize the schedule in December.

Sanctuary City Ordinance for LGBTQ Citizens

Adam Kruse provides an update that there is a report to Council from the Human Rights Commission and it is on the next Council agenda for December 18, 2023. The report requests Council take action to adopt an ordinance to protect LGBTQ+ members of the community in a manner consistent with the proposed ordinance. The Disabilities Commission discussed the topic of the LGBTQ+ ordinance. Jonathan Asher mentioned that the some parts of the proposed ordinance may be within the scope of the Commission's authority while other parts of it may be outside the scope. In particular, he believes that health care and opinions on appropriate medical treatment from the American Medical Association and American Psychiatric are topics that are within the scope of the Disabilities Commission's authority. Vera Elwood comments that she thinks mental health outcomes should also be considered within the scope of the Commission. Jacque Sample says that the Commission will continue to discuss this topic as it is presented to City Council.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Closed Sidewalks and Construction

Adam Kruse provides an update that at the January meeting, he believes staff from Public Works and Community Development will present on a sidewalk closure policy that the City has been working on. The policy will include a checklist for accessibility in closed sidewalks. Commission members discuss sidewalks and reporting issues.

Elections for Commission – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

The Disabilities Commission had its annual elections. Adam Kruse opens the nominations for Chair. Jacque Sample is nominated for Chair and accepts the nomination. There are no other nominations for Chair. **Patrika Brown makes a motion to elect Jacque Sample as Chair of the Disabilities Commission. Dawn Zeterberg seconds. All in favor, motion approved.** Adam Kruse opens the nominations for Vice-Chair. Jonathan Asher is nominated for Vice-Chair and accepts the nomination. **Jacque Sample makes a motion to elect Jonathan Asher as Vice-Chair of the Disabilities Commission. Ann Marie Gortmaker seconds. All in favor, motion approved.** Adam Kruse opens the nominations for Secretary. Patrika Brown is nominated for Secretary and accepts the nomination. **Jonathan Asher makes a motion to elect Patrika Brown as Secretary of the Disabilities Commission. Rene Powell seconds. All in favor, motion approved.**

VII. REPORTS

Chair

Jacque Sample congratulates Rachel Proffitt who was newly elected to City Council and mentions that Dr. Proffitt is also an occupational therapist.

Staff

There is no staff report.

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Dawn Zeterberg provides an update that there was not a quorum for this board so it did not meet.

MU Chancellor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Ann Marie Gortmaker provides an update that there was no meeting this month.

Vision Zero Working Group

John Bowders says that there is a meeting tomorrow for this group. John Bowders also discusses the Airport Steering Committee group that he is on. This will be included as a report topic for future agendas. John Bowders says that Burns & McDonnell will be presenting on the Master Plan and that an intent is to keep accessibility as a key part of the future plans.

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Jacque Sample comments on future agendas. The Commission would like to invite Shane Creech and Tim Teddy to the January meeting to discuss sidewalk closures. The Commission would also like to invite the Mayor and Ward 1 Councilperson to attend as guests, consistent with the proposed 2024 Disabilities Commission Speaker Schedule. And the Commission will also begin discussions on the budget and new decision items.

Cathy Dolles discusses difficulty with an issue of identity theft that she is experiencing. She also comments on fair housing concerns in the community and rider conduct on public transit.

Jonathan Asher comments on an issue with reporting problems on the City's app. He says it is very convenient, however when reporting sidewalks it should not distinguish between business properties and residential properties.

Jacque Sample comments that the Commission should invite the Downtown District CID and the Loop CID to a future meeting.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: February 8, 2023

X. ADJOURNMENT