

Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2013, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall Room 370

Commissioners Present: Mark Adreon, Mike Barta, Joshua Caple, Hope Drummond, Steve Ferreira, Laura Gramer, Grace Oludiji, Deborah Witmer

Commissioners Absent: Patricia Copeland, Vickie Foster, Jonathan Porter

Guests: Miles Berry, Tim Shockley, Carl Peterson, Robert Canamar, Ryan Troyer, Mike and Kathy Troyer, Jacob Struiksma, Cheri Perazzoli

SOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

Call to Order: 4:30 by Laura Gramer

Public Comment: Miles Berry has dumping syndrome, which, similar to Crohn's Disease, frequently requires urgent use of public restrooms. Mr. Berry has been denied use of public restrooms at various locations in Seattle and has been treated disrespectfully despite displaying an identification card indicating his disability.

Approval of Minutes: 11/15/12 minutes approved as read

SOCR Report: Michael Chin

- The Governing for Racial Equity conference was attended by 300 people
- The Seattle Office for Civil Rights is hiring two new Civil Rights Analysts (investigators)
- The RSJI is working with Cleveland High School on discipline disparities
- The legislative agenda will include adding religious accommodation to the employment discrimination law

Committee Reports:

- Executive:
 - Both of the Safe Communities meetings were well attended. Attendees want the Seattle Police Department to have more disability training. Laura Gramer will meet with officers to follow up. Perhaps host a webinar in the future
 - Commissioners are invited to attend "Accessible Communities for All," where Laura will serve as a panelist, sponsored by the Phinney Neighborhood Association
- Public Safety: Emergency planning conference for people with disabilities at Emerald Downs in Auburn on March 20th; free, breakfast and lunch provided

- Issues:
 - Commissioners and others with disabilities have expressed concerns regarding Metro bus drivers' treatment of people who use wheelchairs. Disability 101 training would be helpful. The Transportation Subcommittee, chaired by Vickie Foster, will coordinate with King County Civil Rights Commission
 - Steve Ferreira attended the Directors of Disability Organizations meeting. Several organizations have significant legislative agendas and seek collaboration. Steve encouraged other commissioners to get involved.
- Nominating: All three candidates have been interviewed and are present at the meeting.

Old Business

2013 Work plan approved with amendments.

New Business:

The Washington State Human Rights Commission has proposed a change in the definition of "service animal." The SCPWD will monitor but has not decided to advocate for or against the proposal

Announcements

- Tim Shockley, Library Equal Access Program, will teach Jaws 2 screen reader classes twice a year, as well as keyboarding and other trainings
- Commissioners are invited to program of Deaf Cultural Authors, Beacon Hill Library, January 27th 1:30 p.m.
- Mike Barta announced the citywide gigabit high connection online petition
- Jacob Struiksma: Tuesday 2/12/13 is Transportation Day in Olympia. Feet First, Cascade Bicycle Club, and others will be lobbying. Goals (1) Health, (2) Twenty mile per hour speed limit on neighborhood streets; local funding options for Metro; can send letter or talk to representative if you cannot attend
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday is advocacy day in Olympia. Good day to pull legislators aside. Buses leaving from the Greenwood Food Bank.
- Disability Reception for State Legislators on January 23rd
- Five Commission Meeting: February 13th, 5:30-7:00 p.m.