

Mayoral Advisory Council on Disability
Meeting minutes
January 14, 2010

The regular meeting of the Mayoral Advisory Council on Disability was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. at the Porter County Aging and Community Services Building at 1005 Campbell Street, Valparaiso. Council members in attendance were Vicki Thrasher, Tyler Kent, Sara Ehlers, Ron DeTorrice, Andrea Murray, and John Seibert. Alice Olson, Cynthia Randall, Lori Krysa notified Seibert that they were unable to attend. Other persons attending and registering their attendance Attorney Ethan Lowe, Verne Sanford, Bruce Lindner, Sheila Murray, Jennifer Seeburger, Brenda Darrol, Ernest and Marlyn Bettin, Len Pera, Julia Young, and Diana Wilson.

Also present were Jim Sarkisian of the Valparaiso Community School Board, Dave White, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and operations, and Sharon McGuire, a facilitator of the survey. They were here to collect public input on the strategic planning for VCS from the disability council and its audience. Four questions were asked and McGuire recorded the input to use as part of the strategic planning process.

1. Seibert began the meeting with a welcome and thanked participants for coming to the meeting.
2. Seibert asked that the council approve the minutes from the December 9, 2009 meeting of this council. Ehlers made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Second by Andrea Murray. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried.
3. Old Business
 - A. Review of by-laws and mission statement – Ethan Lowe stated that he had reviewed the by-laws from other communities and has modeled the by-laws after those from Indianapolis which seemed to be the most comprehensive. The mission statement highlights the role of the advisory council. One item Lowe wanted to clarify with the council was length of term for council member. It was decided to stagger the terms with two members each on one-year, two-year, and three- year terms. A. Murray asked when terms will start and it was decided they start now and run through December 31 of 2010 for the one-year term, etc. After the initial one- and two-year terms, terms will be three years in length. It was also decided that a quorum would equal a third of members that are present at any given meeting. Sanford asked if a treasurer was needed. Lowe stated that there is no budgeted line item for the council so any expenses are handled through city hall and the Mayor’s office. Young asked if decisions made in the Disability Advisory Council meetings would be implemented by the Mayor. It was stated, as the title suggests, that the Council’s purpose is to advise the Mayor with suggestions discussed as result of these meetings.
 - B.
 - i. Transportation report – A transportation committee meeting is scheduled for February and will report at the March Council meeting.

ii. Communications report – Seibert announced that Communications Committee will meet on Monday, January 25 at 4 p.m. at the Parks office at 3210 N. Campbell St.

C. Communications from City Departments -

Kent reported that the accessible doors to city hall are here but that electrical issues are not complete. He expects completion in the next two weeks.

4. New Business

A. Finalize process for communicating between meetings – Tabled until next meeting.

B. Accessibility Grant Opportunity – After meeting with task force members, it was decided that the opportunity was not viable.

C. Set meeting schedule for 2010 – Tabled until next meeting.

D. Review 2010 Disability Awareness Campaign materials – March is Disability Awareness Month. A task force is needed to coordinate this effort. Ehlers and Darrol agreed to volunteer and will collaborate with Julia Young and the Low Vision Support Group at their January 26 1:00 p.m. meeting the Library.

5. Questions and comments – N/A

6. Adjournment

Ehlers made a motion to adjourn, second by DeTorrice. A voice vote was taken and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.