

## **Mayor's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities**

Monday, March 25, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Mike Masker, Chair  
Kathy Miklas, Vice Chair  
Amanda Vazquez, Secretary  
Mary Angus  
Beth Ellsworth  
Mark Smith  
Michaela Williams

Members Absent:

Ex Officio: Rhonda Uher

### Pre-Meeting

Michaela motioned to approve February minutes. Mark seconded. Motion passed. Kathy contacted 2 individuals to represent the blind and visually impaired community. One could not – conflicting time – but suggested 2 more individuals. Kathy will contact them.

Still need to recruit more people to be on the Commission. Michaela will look for a senior to serve on the commission - even though they may not have a disability, they often face a lot of the same accessibility issues as people with disabilities.

### Televised Meeting

- A. Welcome
- B. Chairman Mike Masker welcomed the TV audience, commission members, and guests and announced the times and dates when the program will be replayed on Channel 18 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. The Chair also provided contact information to the viewing public via the web, the Mayor's Office and the Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department.
- C. The Chairman briefed the audience on the Commission's mission, purpose, meeting format and times.
- D. The Chairman informed the audience that announcements of upcoming events would be made at the end of the meeting. Audience members were advised to have pen and paper handy to take notes.
- E. The Chairman advised that a quorum was present to conduct business.

- F. The Chairman announced that the minutes of the MCCD meeting held in February 2013 were approved during the Preliminary Session.
- G. Members provided updates on the status of each subcommittee's project.  
**Survey:** Mark and Kathy have been working on the survey getting it finalized. Will work with Rhonda and will be distributed to city employees.  
**Jobs:** Hopes to meet with the person taking over for Heartland Workforce Solutions.  
**Transportation:** Mary met with GPS Transportation Inc. 402-331-7433 (RIDE). Currently have 2 accessible vans – hopes to have 5 in near future. Contracts with Access to Care (Medicaid). Serves the entire state.  
**Website:** Up and running...will announce the website at the next televised meeting.
- H. Guest Speaker: Mayor's Commission Members - Power Point: Communicating with People with Disabilities.

The goal of creating this power point was so it could serve as a useful tool for city employees. It provides good information on best practices in terms of communicating with people with disabilities. There were seven disability areas targeted: people with speech/language disabilities, people with physical disabilities, seniors, people who are blind or visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with developmental/intellectual disabilities, and people with mental illness.

Golden Rule: Treat people with disabilities with respect, just as you would like to be treated.