

# Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities Agenda

Email Address [aberdeenmayorsadvisory@gmail.com](mailto:aberdeenmayorsadvisory@gmail.com)

Co-Chair Eric Vetter/Brad Orr/Jamie Ward

VP/Treasurer Allison Schmitt

Co-Secretaries Megan Neal/Becca Wells

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Start Time: 12 p.m.

End Time: 1 p.m.

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor city hall

Purpose: Regular scheduled meeting

## 1. Standing Items

- 1.1 Any additions to the agenda?
- 1.2 Excused absence: *Jill Craft Trego, Alexa Sheldon, Adam Poeppel, Anna Moser, Jaime' Matthews, Dave Lunzman, Nancy Kelsey, Lance Sigdestad.*
- 1.3 Review and approve minutes – *March 2025 - 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve, Allison. Seconded by Nicole Meyer. Motion carried.*
- 1.4 Review and approve Treasurer's Report – March 2025 – *Current balance-\$3500 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve, Eric Vetter. Seconded by Laura Stoltenberg. Motion carried.*

## 2. Committee Reports

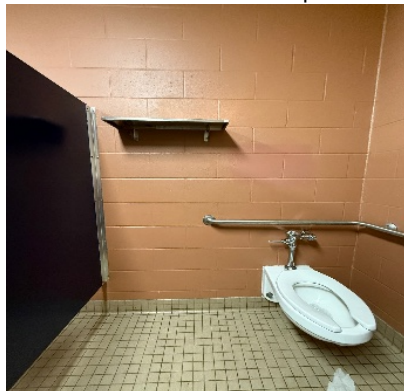
- 2.1 **BAD** – Becca Wells, Allison Schmitt, Tina Kenser *Becca provided the BAD schedule handout today. Provided group numbers and room locations at the Aberdeen Recreation Cultural Center (ARCC) were verified with both David Eckert and Molly who were in attendance on behalf of the ARCC today. Discussed making new videos to be able to send out to the schools to promote future events to local school districts. Need to look at getting parent permission to videotape their kids interacting during the BAD event. Later discussed having the SDSBVI to do a demo of "Goal Ball" game that is played by the students at the school. This is seen as another way students attending BAD can gain awareness about the visual impairments and how fellow students adapt to still be able to participate in a game or sport.*
- 2.2 **Transportation** – Rich Krokkel, Ryan DeRouchey – *Ryan presented the ridership information today. Increased ridership to 1200 riders, which is over 20% higher than this time in previous year. The dispatcher, Patty, retired and a full-time driver took over the dispatch position. There is also further enhancement in the bus fleet as old buses are being replaced with new ones. Other items discussed included shelter for their bus fleet, purchased a bus lift to effectively and safely do mechanic work done under the bus.*
- 2.3 **Education Enhancement Award** – Mendy Jones, Missy Hill, & Jamie Ward - *Mendy working on a new contact through the school. Cassandra Maillet from NSU is new contact. Looking for good candidates.*
- 2.4 **NDEAM** – Laura Stoltenburg (Laura is looking for new committee members) – *Laura stated that they got their funding and that the committee planning meeting is next week. Anyone is welcome to attend the committee meeting.*
- 2.5 **ADA Anniversary Celebration** – Anna Moser, Eric Vetter, Brad Orr, Tina Kenser – Eric, Brad, and Tina met at the library about 1 week ago to start planning for the ADA Celebration. Ideas brought forward included:
  1. *Financial support for interpreter services at the summer concert series event held that week. Connect with Alexa Sheldon on finding local businesses to support the other two nights in the summer concert series in June and July.*
  2. *Get an email to Lance Sigdestad to see if he would do an educational session at the K.O. Lee Library to teach basic sign language to those interested in attending.*
  3. *Get all electronic billboards to promote the ADA 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and stand below one of the large daktronic signs with the message above the group holding signs promoting the ADA.*

4. Coloring contest for young kids from YMCA or Boys & Girls Club, Aspire, or maybe high school art students come up with something. Topic: "What does disability look like to you?"
5. Sensory swim at outdoor pool on the Saturday of ADA week.
6. Sensory movie at the theater.
7. Have events on multiple nights throughout the week so members from the committee have optional nights to participate as a Mayor's Advisory Committee member to promote the ADA that week.

### 3. Old Business

- 3.1 Parking violation cards – Pass out to those interested - *These were passed out to all attendees today. Many more available in the storage closet, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor City Hall.*
- 3.2 Jamie Ward – Managing committee Facebook page. Are there any new items of interest to send to Jamie at [jamie.ward@wolves.northern.edu](mailto:jamie.ward@wolves.northern.edu) so he can get them posted on our Facebook page? *Continue to send new information you find or videos that we can post on the FB page.*
- 3.3 Text group – *Reminded members that were present about the intention of the text group. See something, say something. Bring it back to the committee if you are unsure.*

Picture below is an example of what we would use this group for, what is wrong with this picture?



### 4. New Business

- 4.1 City Attendees to Mayor's Advisory Committee Meetings – Welcome David Eckert from Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center – *David Eckert and Molly Taylor came over from the ARCC to talk about their program and how they try to effectively integrate opportunities for individuals with disabilities to participate in the programs at the ARCC. They try to provide supporting services when needed (i.e. sign language services). Going to be working this summer with an intern on developing some video content to utilize the social media platform to promote their program.*
- 4.2 Speaker to present information to the committee? *Nichole Nelson, from SDSBVI, spoke about the school and the opportunities provided to their students. **History:** The first school in South Dakota for the blind and visually impaired was the South Dakota School for the Blind, which opened on March 1, 1900, in Gary, South Dakota. It was initially established as a charitable asylum and later designated for the care and instruction of blind children. The school later moved to Aberdeen and changed its name to the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in 1998. **SDSBVI:** Current school in Aberdeen can house up to 40 student residents. Currently, have nine students residing at the school. They offer seasonal outreach programs to promote awareness of the school with parent involvement in hopes the students will consider full-time residence at the school. **Staffing:** Teacher's (Master's Degree Education level), Staff speech-language pathologist, Braille teacher, transition specialist (working with vocational rehab), school nurse, contracted OT/PT services. **Events:** Community activity participation, skills training, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, Concerts, White Cane event in October, movie theater (using audio/visual headphones), and Goal Ball.*
- 4.3 Melgaard Park sidewalk and bathrooms discussion – **Deferred to next meeting due to time constraints with today's meeting items.**
- 4.4 Dr. Becky Guffin email follow up discussion – **Deferred to next meeting, due to time constraints with today's meeting items.**

- 4.5 Vote on Shannon Lewno to become a new Mayor's Advisory Committee member – **Deferred to next meeting due to time constraints with today's meeting items. Vote next meeting.**

5. Review Upcoming Dates

**\*BARRIER AWARENESS DAY - Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – 8am-2pm @ the ARCC. Meet at the Civic Arena at 8am to set**

**up.**

6. Ending Items – Adjourn

7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-1 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor City Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will be joined by Amber Schwab – Website PIO. Thank you!