

City of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County
Task Force on Disability
Monday January 27, 2014
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members in Attendance: Aurelia Carter-Scott, James C. Noschese, Janet Evans, Richard McGann, Sarah Goldstein, Paul O’Hanlon, Joe Wassermann

Task Force Members Absent: Liz Healy, Linda Dickerson, Dr. Katherine Seelman, John Tague, Jeff Parker, Milton Henderson

Also in Attendance: Richard Meritzer, Tracy Cummins, Randy Whitehair, Charles Morrison, Chris Snellgrove, Anthony Mannella, Eric Sinagra, Joe Duvall, David Onorato, Joy Dore, Mewawsit Cmra, Robra Smith, Anthony Back, Ali R. Abdullah, Wes Pollard, Alexa Shannon, Bo Ai, Ivan Perilla, Alexander Polinsky, Joe Snyder

Welcome and Introduction:

Mr. Paul O’Hanlon, 1:00 pm

Mr. O’Hanlon began the meeting by introductions of Task Force members and other individuals in attendance.

1. **Review and Approval of the November Minutes and Financial Report:**

Mr. Paul O’Hanlon, 1:15 pm

The November financial report was approved by a unanimous vote.

2. **Report: Nominating Committee**

Mr. Richard Mertizer, 1:30 pm

All applicants have been contacted and informed that a decision has been made yet nothing publically announced as the Mayor and County Executive have final appointing powers. Letters with final announcements will be sent prior to next task force meeting.

3. **Discussion—Best Practices for Airport Compliance**

Mr. Kautilya Nalubulu, 1:45 pm

Presentation of report on airport best practices associated with ADA compliance given by Mr. Kautilya Nalubulu, Policy Intern, ADA. The draft report is a broad analysis of best practices and not a discussion on the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. Main points of discussion dealing with the draft report were:

- Some 10 million people with disabilities travel at least two times a year

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- 10 airports' practices were reviewed.
- Best practices include:
 - Accessible pick up doors
 - "help line" for those people with health concerns
 - Visual monitors with continuous updates pertaining to flight times, cancelations, and delays
 - Unisex accessible bathrooms allowing caregivers to more easily facilitate activity

Throughout the discussion there was an emphasis on "access" questions dealing with the blind and deaf communities, in addition, to those people with mobility concerns; these concerns were raised both by Task Force members as well as community members at large. Noting the discussion and concerns raised during the meeting Mr. James C. Noschese volunteered to serve as a representative of the deaf community should the discussion be expanded to include a regional dialogue with the Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

4. **Discussion—Best Practices for Accessible Sidewalks**

Mr. Richard Meritzer, 2:00 pm

Discussion engaged questions regarding accessibility of sidewalks as part of the MovePGH portion of the Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan. Similarly to ArtPGH, MovePGH has a section dedicated to a broad array of disability concerns including sight, hearing and mobility.

This discussion was expanded to include questions of best traffic signaling practices. Mr. Richard Mertizer indicated, following a concern raised by Mr. Richard McGann concerning the state of auditory cross walk signal in the city that new traffic signals are to be instituted in installments pending further funding. To this effect the ADA office is coordinating social media crowd funding campaign [further updates in subsequent Task Force meeting]. Ms. Janet Evans suggested reaching out to the Rotary and Knights of Columbus as possible contributors upon hearing that the Lions Club would not be contributing to the installation initiative.

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5. **Update—Parking Meter Stations**

David Onorato, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Parking Authority

Given the concerns raised in previous Task Force meetings about non-compliant parking meters all meters are to be retrofitted so to fit with the below 48-inch requirement. The meter design has been lowered 3-inches, in addition, 6 retrofitted bottoms are now available at a lower level. Ms. Janet Evans suggests a wheelchair demonstration—which was preformed and received positively by the Task Force members.

Discussion was expanded to include concerns with handicap accessible parking and the lack of entrance and exit space from the vehicle.

6. **Staff Updates**

Alexa Shannon, Bo Ai, Ivan Perilla, Alexander Polinsky, MaiNguyen, 2:28 pm

Introductions by interns about their backgrounds and current projects:

Alexa Shannon- Legal Intern, ADA

Current Project:

- Transition Plan for compliance, including installation timeline

Bo Ai- Social Media Intern, ADA

Current Project:

- Setting up a Youtube page for ADA office to be used for AccessiblePGH
- Maintenance of Twitter, and Facebook accounts

Ivan Perilla, Architectural Intern, ADA/Design Studio

- Working with permitting process to ensure ADA compliance
- Working with the ONE STEP Project to promote a streamlined permit to construction process
 - Note: ONE STEP aims to encourage local business to ramp their one step barriers should a step exist at the entrance of the business venue.

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Alexander Polinsky- Intern, ADA

- Working to set up a Revolving Fund for the ONE Step Program in addition to a general budget for the initiative.

Mai Nguyen – Intern, ADA

- Working for Hospital ADA compliance.

7. **Vox Pop**

A motion to adjourn the Task Force Meeting was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be held February 24, 2014.