

**City of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County**  
**Task Force on Disability**  
**Monday November 18, 2013**  
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Task Force Members in Attendance:** Dr. Katherine Seelman, Paul O'Hanlon, Janet Evans, John Tague, Richard McGann, Aurelia Carter-Scott, Sarah Goldstein, James C. Noschese, Jeff Parker, Milton Henderson

**Task Force Members Absent:** Joe Wassermann, Liz Healy, Linda Dickerson

**Also in Attendance:** Richard Meritzer, Donald Kovacic, Joan Stein, DJ Stemmler, Joy Dore, Anthony Boule, Aviva Diamond, Randy Whitehair, Wes Pollard, Bill Frase, Ali R. Abdullah, Sarah D. Kinler, David Onorato, Jeff Nethery, Megan Hammond, Damitra T. Penny, Jillian Corbett, Sara Fernandez

**Welcome and Introduction:**

*Paul O'Hanlon*

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

1. **Review and Approval of the October Minutes and Financial Report**

*Paul O'Hanlon*

The October minutes and financial report were approved by a unanimous vote.

2. **Report: Nominating Committee**

*Paul O'Hanlon*

Taskforce members have come to their decision on the candidates they wish to recommend to the Taskforce. The appointees will be announced at the January meeting once the recommendations are approved by the Chief Executive and the Mayor.

3. **New Disability Symbol Icon**

*Dr. Katherine Seelman*

Discussion put forward regarding the possibility of implementing a more active disability icon instead of the current icon in place throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Any changing of the current icon would not be allowed on public property given the state's current regulations, however, on private property changes may be applicable. The new

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icon up for discussion is a representation of an individual in a wheelchair in a self propelled motion as opposed to the standard symbol of an individual in a sitting and passive posture.

Mr. James C. Noschese was positive about the possibility of a new icon, however, brought forward a concern that should new signage be possible then production should be based locally in the state.

Mr. Meritzer assured the Task Force the current and future disability signage in Pittsburgh is actually made in the Strip District.

Throughout the discussion the Task Force was, in general, positive regarding the possibility of a new icon. Other additional concerns raised were: the originality of the new icon and the possibility of copyright infringements. Given the information available Mr. Richard Meritzer suggested there was no copyright he was knowledgeable of on the new sign.

Ms. Sarah Goldstein raised the question of a petition or possible funding social media funding campaign to see the new more active signage go up throughout the city.

#### **4. Discussion —Parking Meter Stations**

##### **Richard Meritzer**

Concerns raised on the parking meter station height and accessibility. Serious extended concerns were raised by many of the members present regarding the height regulations and 48” 2010 ADA requirement. This discussion began with a recounting of Ms. DJ Stemmlers experience trying to park near Shadyside Hospital. She found that the newly installed parking meter stations were well above even her own elevated wheelchair making the payment of the meter impossible. Because of the inaccessibility of the meter station she was then given a fine parking fine for non payment.

Upon investigation the current parking meters stations are set at previous regulatory heights, however, the 2010 ADA regulation regarding the 48” minimum became effective as of March 2012. Thus, the meter stations that have been instituted after the 2012 start period do not match and are therefore non-compliant. At current the meter

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stations have the buttons and screen at 51” and 52” respectively making it near impossible for a person with mobility challenges to pay parking.

The presentation was raised with representatives of the maker of the station and the Pittsburgh Parking Authority responsible for the stations’ implementation.

## **5. Staff Reports**

Hoarders’ Task Force- Code Review – Jillian Corbett

Intern Jillian Corbett is currently looking at places in the code where changes can be made to accommodate the ADA. In addition, the intern has been in the process of drafting legislation for a reasonable accommodation regarding the building inspectors when they are presented with an individual with hoarding syndrome so that the person can have more time to seek treatment.

Hospital Compliance Website- Sara Fernandez

Intern Sara Fernandez has been working to set up guidelines to more clearly address ADA concerns with hospital compliance for people with Intellectual and Development Disabilities.. In addition, a survey questionnaire will be made available online at the ADA website regarding experiences with the hospital for the hard of hearing and deaf communities.

## **6. Vox Pop**

Concern were raised about the attendance and at meetings and the possibility of reaching out to more people in the disabled community perhaps via an annual event.

A citizen brought up a concern about rent and social security payment. The discussion was extensive and the Task Force suggested reaching out to the leasing office and clarifying social security income to the citizen.

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

The next meeting will be held January 24,2013.