

**City-County Task Force on Disabilities (CCTFD) Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2020**

**Task Force Members in Attendance**

Paul O’Hanlon  
John Tague  
Karen Warman  
Paul “Rich” McGann  
Sarah Goldstein  
Cori Frazer

**Task Force Members in Absent**

James “Chris” Noschese  
Janet Evans  
Joe Wasserman

**Others in Attendance**

Hillary Roman—City of Pittsburgh ADA Coordinator  
Caylin Snyder—Allegheny County ADA Coordinator  
Ali Abdullah—Disability Compliance Administrator, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh  
Wes Speary—Deputy Director, Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations  
Kristy Trautman—FISA  
Cassandra Masters—ACCESS  
Tina Calabro—Advocate  
Alisa Grishman—Advocate  
Andrew Dash—Director of City Planning  
Cassandra Leopold—Principal Planner, DOMI  
Members of the public

**Welcome and Introductions**

Paul called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed all attendants. Task Force members and several members of the public introduced themselves.

**Items of Discussion**

**30th Anniversary of the ADA**

- Disability Pride
  - Alisa discussed the online celebration of the ADA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary via Philadelphia’s Disability Pride forum (now Disability Pride PA) “30 Days of the ADA” online ([disabilitypridephiladelphia.org](http://disabilitypridephiladelphia.org)). The forum will include 30 days of celebrating disability pride and diversity. Invents to include media, comedians, panel discussions, talent show, etc. Website includes a calendar of events.
  - Tina offered information on one of the events being held with statewide partners—three films on disability rights. Event held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:30-5:30.
  - Tina also announced an upcoming panel discussion sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Disability History and Action Consortium with Guy Caruso, Nancy Thaler, and Brenda Dare on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Other ADA 30 Events

- Darcy Cleaver from Port Authority confirmed that they are working with ACCESS and will wrap one of their buses with the ADA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo and include infographics inside the bus.
- Disability History Consortium will also be showing a short film about Paul Dick, who was instrumental in creating ACCESS transportation
- Alisa confirmed that Governor Wolf will be making opening remarks for “30 Days of the ADA”
- Tina added that Global Pittsburgh and ADA 30 stakeholder groups will be hosting an online event celebrating global advocates for disabilities by hosting an advocate from Nigeria on a virtual tour of Pittsburgh.

## **Old Business**

- Sandwich boards, Complete Streets, ADA Parking
  - Paul summarized some of the Task Force’s most recent issues of discussion including:
    - Lack of compliance around sandwich boards blocking the public right-of-way
    - The City’s Complete Streets initiative
    - Elimination of ADA parking spaces due to bike lane installation
    - Concerns about installation of the BRT affecting accessibility on Fifth and Forbes Avenues in Oakland
- Small Differences
  - Tina gave an update on the film by Tony Buba. Paul has signed off on permissions for the video to be posted online. City and County ADA Coordinators and Heinz History Center will also have copies.
- Voting Accessibility
  - Cori jumped in to push for the CCTFD to make a statement to the county about voting inaccessibility, especially as it pertains to the physical landscape. Caylin requested that Cori send her more information about exact locations.
  - Rich had a complaint about not having an interpreter at polling locations. Caylin responded that she would follow up with the county about increasing communications around accessibility needs and accommodations at polling locations.
  - Karen said that there weren’t trainings at polling locations this year due to COVID-19. Caylin responded that she would reach out to the training team to make improvements before the November election.
  - Rich complained that the volunteers at polling stations need more training.
  - Wes Speary commented that at his polling location at the Pittsburgh Fulton School was physically accessible, but there was no room for social distancing.
  - Member of the public Sarah Capps submitted concerns about violation of disability rights with voting. She is specifically concerned about HIPPA as it pertains to voting disability disclosure when voting by mail. She would like to see a change in county policy explaining how sensitive information is kept safe.
    - Caylin requested that Sarah send her detailed information about the work she has done around this issue so that she can research it herself and attempt to rectify the issue.
    - Paul clarified that this is a state law requirement predating the ADA and HIPPA—all information about elections is public, except who you voted for.
    - Rich thanked Sarah and asked that she reach out to Rep. Dan Miller to influence legislation around voting disclosures.

## Racial Equity

- Ali Abdullah raised the question of whether the Task Force would be willing to make a statement on racial equity in the midst of social outcry over police brutality and use of force against people of color and people with disabilities. Ali referenced that Disability Rights PA has already done so. He also asked the Task Force to review police policies towards both people of color and people with disabilities.
  - Rich offered his support for police training on crisis intervention.
  - Wes offered the partnership and support of the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations as it relates to all matters of discrimination.
  - John supports making a statement on police use of force. Paul wondered what the strategy would be in terms of action against police brutality beyond making a statement. He also responded to Rich that the problems with law enforcement have more to do with culture than training.
  - Paul asked whether the CCTFD would be interested in having County Councilpersons attend a future meeting on issues of policing.
  - Alisa commented that the issue Ali raised is less about problem-solving and more about moral condemnation and is in line with what countless other entities have put forth in response.
  - Sarah does not think there is any problem with issuing a statement that addresses both types of inequities.
  - Rich and Karen agree that policing affect people with disabilities significantly.
  - FISA's Kristy Trautmann spoke to the intersection of race and disability. She wanted to know whether the Task Force is interested in: 1) taking a stand to advocate for ppl of color with disabilities, and 2) knowing more about the City's new Office of Community Health and Safety and the Task Force's involvement with that office
    - Paul responded that he would be willing to participate in the new office should the CCTFD be invited to. He clarified that he is against making a condemning statement, he would prefer to look for action items to advocate for change.
  - Alisa re-centered the discussion on racial inequity in policing and requested that the Task Force issue a statement.
  - Hillary suggested that the CCTFD form a subcommittee on issues of law enforcement and equity.
    - Unanimous agreement for subcommittee. Members include Karen, Rich, Sarah, Hillary, and Paul.
    - Hillary would like to have it on the agenda for next month.

## COVID-19: Open forum

- Highland Park
  - Tina presented a brief PowerPoint on the loss of disability access to amenities due to the Highland Park Reservoir Drive closure to vehicles
    - Tina outlined the problematic lack of consideration for accessibility and lack of communication for this pilot that the City supported
  - Hillary offered that she had been communicating with DOMI and had hoped that someone from the Dept. would be able to attend the meeting. She believes they are examining the issue and offered to share Tina's PowerPoint with relevant City actors.
  - Andrew Dash commented that City leadership is considering accommodations to help people with disabilities access the amenities.
  - Tina asked Andrew when she would be able to take her son to the park and access the amenities again.

- Cassandra Leopold, DOMI's new Principal Planner introduced herself to the group and shared her role as the new Complete Streets project manager. She clarified to the group that the project that went through DPW, not DOMI.
  - Cassandra also asked that the group provide feedback on upcoming DOMI projects, including the Neighborways initiative.
  - John asked when the Complete Streets Advisory Committee would be reconvening. Cassandra reassured John that she is hoping to revive the Committee as soon as possible.
- Tina requested information about grievance-filing because she would like her complaint filed in writing. She is concerned that the issue will not be resolved without any timetable. Andrew asked for more clarification and Tina outlined the specific areas that are now less accessible than they had been before the road closure including picnic shelters and a playground. Most of the previously available parking in Highland Park had already been accessible. Without parking places, access has been diminished or eliminated for those with mobility challenges.
- Paul emphasized that before taking action, the City needs to consider whether those actions negatively impact accessibility. If so, the City can't proceed.
- Hillary talked about the lack of malicious intent on the part of the City but also need for more ADA supports in the City in order to prevent these kinds of oversights.
- Paul responded with concern that the BRT plan will repeat these types of mistakes in the future without adequate accessibility analysis.
- Andrew commented that the challenges of City provisions and the need to institute social distancing have introduced many new and unprecedented problems. He also underscored that he and Hillary have been in the position to catch up with the pilot program and are currently working through solutions after the fact of its initiation.
- Tina expressed disdain for the lack of communication about the project to the residents. She asked that Andrew and Hillary communicate to the City that they are in violation of the ADA. Hillary affirmed that she had communicated this and Andrew reiterated that discussions to resolve the issue are under way.
- Tina inquired as to how social distancing and public health had played into the decision-making around the project. Andrew was not aware of any such discussions.
- Paul underscored that no circumstances should get in the way of protecting ADA access.

### **Miscellaneous Issues/Concerns**

- Clear Masks: Rich brought up the need for clear masks so that deaf and hard of hearing community members are able to read lips when people wear masks for COVID-19 prevention
- Meeting Time: Paul raised the potential to hold CCTFD meetings later if preferable.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Disability Pride (outlined above) <https://www.disabilitypridephiladelphia.org/>

### **Adjournment**

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Karen and carried unanimously.

*YouTube link with closed captioning:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6XTXhEqKNo&t=783s>