

CITY- COUNTY
Task Force on Disabilities

July 18, 2022

Task Force Members In Attendance

City

Leah Northrop, Member at Large
Paul O'Hanlon
Joe Wassermann

County

James "Chris" Noschese, Chair
John Tague, Treasurer
Cori Frazer
Sarah Goldstein

13th Member

Paul "Rich" McGann

Guest

Adam Drake

Task Force Members Absent

City

Janet Evans
Mark Schmeler
Michelle Walker

County

Georgia Petropoulos, Cochair
Karen Warman

Staff Present

Hillary Roman, City of Pittsburgh ADA Coordinator
Caylin Snyder, Allegheny County ADA Coordinator
Audrey Wells, Department of City Planning Admin

Welcome & Introductions

Chris Noschese called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. Task Force members and members of the public introduced themselves.

Agenda

A. Review and Approval of Minutes

Paul O'Hanlon offered a motion to accept the minutes from the June 27th meeting. Rich McGann seconded. All The motion to accept the June 27, 2022 minutes was approved.

B. Treasurer's Report

John Tague reported that the fiscal year ended in June. Not all money that was allocated was spent, but we required to spend that money in the year, so May and June invoices will be paid out of last year's budget. Any new money spent, for example the invoice for interpreters at the Pittsburgh Disability Pride event, will come out of the 2022-2023 budget. The 2023 budget is \$12,900, same as the previous year.

- Allowance for CARD was \$1200, none was spent in 2022 but it's important to include it in case we have expenses related to CARD
- There is an amount allocated to interpreters
- An allocation to the Richard Meritzer Award
- Events and projects, part of that goes to the Community Heroes event with CLASS
- Last year's budget included money for an Annual Meeting, which did not happen, so there's a surplus of unspent money.
- The 2023 budget looks much the same as the previous year.
- The budget includes some allowance for meeting expenses

Paul put forth the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Joe Wasserman seconded. None opposed. Report has been approved.

C. Mayor's Attendance/Town Hall

The Mayor is confirmed to attend the Task Force meeting on August 15th from 3 to 3:30. The Executive Committee will meet to develop an agenda to make the most use of the time. There is also another opportunity to meet with city officials Kim Lucas, Assistant Director of DOMI and Lisa Frank, Chief Operating and Administrative Officer. Executive Committee will be working together to finalize that meeting.

D. Adam Drake

Adam uses public transportation and buses, Rich uses Access, and there are issues with both. Adam shared his experience with the Public Transportation systems in the area. Adam works for Deaf Blind Services for Deaf Stone in Wilkinsburg.

- There have been issues with some of the apps used by the deaf blind and deaf + community.
- Traffic lights/signals that are audio based are not helpful
- Storm water drains can cause white walking sticks to get stuck

There were some communication issues with interpretation for Adam and it was suggested that this agenda item be tabled and moved to the next meeting when a tactile interpreter can be present with Adam to help him better communicate his ideas.

E. Joe Wasserman

Nation-wide Symposium on Emergency Situations and Disaster Response regarding people with disabilities and how to best communicate evacuation instructions or other important emergency information, July 19-20. Should someone from the task force be involved in this call? And it also is a good time to ask, what is the city and county's plan as far as emergency management for people with disabilities.

- Chris had been contacted by Robert Probst, President of PA Society for the Advancement of the Deaf. He asked about the first responder's booklet with simple sign language, created by the City of Pittsburgh Fire Dept, which he would like to distribute to all 67 counties in PA. Hillary will look for extra copies and the master for reprints if needed.
 - Rich agreed that accessible information during emergency situations is lacking, citing an example of being in an area being evacuated due to a possible active shooter and not understanding what was happening or what to do.
 - Leah reported that registries do exist and the City of Pittsburgh's website has a page called Ready City with a link to PEMA for emergency plan assistance for people with disabilities. The link does not connect to anywhere but the process is in place, Kelly King is working with EMT and emergency management.
 - This sounds like a priority that should be added to the task force agenda for the year. This would mean assigning a chair for this committee.
- F. Motion to adjourn made by Rich McGann and seconded by John Tague. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

YouTube link with closed captioning: <https://youtu.be/BAMeWj-w-AM>