

City of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County

Task Force on Disabilities

May 21, 2018

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Agenda

Task Force Members in Attendance

Paul O’Hanlon, James C. Noschese (Chris), Joe Wasserman, Karen Warmen, Richard McGann,
Milton Henderson, John Tag

Task Force Members Absent

Also In Attendance

Richard Meritzer, Joy Dorm, Mike Davis, Brandy Baker, Sharon Clarke, Ali Abdullah, **Mary Ester**, Shirley Abriola, Anthony Veltri, Dominic Klonicki, Ryan, Cody Buckholt

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. O’Hanlon: I want to welcome everybody this is the City County Task for on Disabilities monthly meeting, we’re going to start by doing introductions.

Mr. Meritzer: We have some ice cream here because this is Ryan’s last day. So we are celebrating all the good work he did, so feel free to grab some ice cream with Ryan, otherwise he will eat it all.

Mr. O’Hanlon: Okay, thank you everybody, welcome everybody. The first item on the agenda is the review and approval of the treasurer’s report, so John you’re on.

Action Items: Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Tang: A couple things on the report itself, I added another category of committee meetings, because Paul had been forming an number of committees and of those we had one committee meeting that Joe chaired so I added the category in case we would need it, now there's nothing in the budget for it but in case it would show up as an expense if we had more committee meetings that we set up and that is mainly for accessibility and to make sure the meetings are accessible. If you notice in the last column at the bottom it has about \$4000 approximately and that's with taking off the estimated cost of our May and June meetings and also normally take out our July meeting from our 2017-2018 budget but it's going to leave us a decent balance and one of the things we need to determine how we spend that money and last year I think it was the ADA march I think we spent around \$700 on that. So again we have about \$4000 left I'm projecting and so we have to determine how we're going to allocate that money, last year we had an annual meeting and I'm not sure if we're having an annual meeting again this year, Paul, but if we would that's something that we would have to spend the money on that and the July meeting but it's still going to leave us with some money remaining so I'm wondering if we wanted to participate as we did last year with the ADA celebration which is a little bit different this year because it is tied in with OFA, or is it PFA?

Mr. Meritzer: No it is OFA, PFA is a different group, and what's going on right now is that the representatives from DON are working with OFA to coordinate so that the rally will be, they are trying to get Schenley Plaza for the same day as the ramp crawl, on the anniversary date, and then the rally will be there. Then there will be a temporary break before they do the ramp crawl. There is supposed to be someone here to talk about that but he isn't ere yet, so that's what it looks like, but the committee hasn't been set up yet. So we have no idea what the expenses will be and who will be paying for them.

Mr. McGann: The concern that I have about that is that looking at this budget is that the current balance we have, if we do not use that by next year will we lose that in next year's budget, so is that money that we need to spend so we can do something with that money now so that we don't lose it for next year, I don't want to give that money back but if we don't use it will they take it away from us I'm not sure how that works and so now what is the budget for next year, has that been asked yet, can we ask that?

Mr. Tang: now for a number of years it has been \$9,000 so that is what we are asking for again that is what the county has granted us to operate the task force. It is difficult to know how much we are going to spend because there isn't a good way to gauge how much we need for meetings for accessibility we purposefully took card out unless it was requested because it was an expense that we didn't need because it doubles so the answer to your question is that in theory the money would go back to the county but my problem with that is if we send that back to the county they are going to think 'are we going to need to give them as much money?' I think we do.

Mr. O'Hanlon: I think that we are just now finding out that we have this balance so I think that we don't need to panic because we still haven't scoped out what sort of activities are on the agenda and price those out so I know that there will certainly more committee meetings happening soon, I'm planning one out now, so why don't we plan on reviewing this next month but in the meantime we should encourage sending things to John that we think would be important in adding to the budget to account for that balance, so I think that it is a little bit early for us to be worried about spending it because not everything is planned.

Mr. Tang: Right, but just as a reminder next month is June which is the last day of the year, the other question is developing a budget for next year, we've been operating a standard budget with categories each year and I do have a category in here for annual meeting and then I have a

category for projects if there is a specific project we would like to work on and maybe next year we have to start allocating money for committee meetings from that \$9,000, but that is the only caveat I have but like I said next month we won't be meeting until what, so it won't be until later in the month so back to Paul's idea.

Mr. O'Hanlon: No it couldn't be the 16th

Mr. Mertizer: It's the 18th.

Mr. O'Hanlon: And the money has to be committed to be spent that's what I've been doing in the past. Any other questions about the financial report?

Mr. O'Hanlon: Can I get a second to approve that? All in favor say I.

Task Force members all say I in agreement.

ADA Symposium

Mr. O'Hanlon: How about if we move the ADA Symposium agenda item next.

Mr. Meritzer: Okay, on Father's Day weekend and the following couple days after that, there is going to be a national ADA Symposium in Pittsburgh, in which I am speaking at, some people from OFA will be speaking at. It is going to be a big deal, and there is some concern with the PDP about the accessibility of downtown around the Wyndham, so we are going out and having a look and inviting DOMI and PDP to make sure we are on the same page about everything to need to do and can it be done in time. That is going to be on Thursday, May 31st from 1-2 o'clock. We are going to meet at the front of the Wyndham and just wander around downtown to restaurants and lots to make sure that we know if there are any trouble issues like ramps that don't work anymore or sandwich boards in the way. Because we already did the march there last

year we already checked everything once, but we just wanted to make sure that everything is still okay and that there are no concerns. It is 1-2 o'clock so that anyone can join us because nothing is better than a whole group of people looking at a sidewalk ramp just staring at it.

Ms. Dorm: So this is for the task force?

Mr. Meritzer: it is open to anyone in the disability community? And if you need accommodations let me know.

Me. O'Hanlon: Okay any questions?

Mr. Noschese: Could you send a detailed list of what we will be doing so that I can read it over and if it interests me maybe I could request an interpreter and join.

Discussion with DOMI

Mr. O'Hanlon: Okay thank you Richard. Next on the agenda is a discussion with DOMI, Director Ricks would you come on up? Okay welcome, I guess I'm not sure to start off by offering you an opportunity but letting you tell us the state of DOMI or let us go by saying a whole range of street/sidewalk related concerns that we've had going back so there will be no shortage of that, I'm just wondering of how you would like to set this up.

Director Ricks: Okay, sure, so I'm Karina Ricks, I'm the Director of DOMI, this department was created by city council just over a year ago as an act of council, but it didn't get to its true fruition until this fiscal year when the budget for all of these projects became available to the department. So the department is called DOMI, it serves as a traditional department of

transportation if you look at other cities. It brings together a whole scattered assortment of project from around the city, some are public works, city planning, and some activities like new transportation was in the mayor's office, so this department was really created to bring all of those activities together so you can have a single point of contact for those concerns. I came to the city after working in DC in the role of Associate Director of Transportation Planning and after that I had served as a consultant for transportation issues nationally and internationally, we've met many times before and my real emphasis and my core values are that walking and sidewalks are the fundamental unit of transportation in a city because everyone whether you're a person with a disability or not you're using this sidewalks at some point or another so this is something we need to get right. It is sort of teeing up the discussion we are getting to, it is a different situation here in Pittsburgh, where maintenance and even capitol maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner. This is something that is a reality here, it is the commonwealth code, that is an issue that collectively we can talk about and what limitations that presents and what advantages it also does, but most importantly how do we still deliver a complete accessible system no matter the case.

Mr. O'Hanlon: I'm thinking that we have a new sidewalk committee that Joe Wasserman is chairing so I feel like I should give Joe the opportunity to sort of fresh out the block and give the first crack with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Wassermann: just recently I submitted a call to our 311 service about a very bad sidewalk, does that mean it will come to your department instead, or the department of public works?

Director Ricks: I think it is a sort of soup to nuts review that we need to do about how sidewalks are delivered, enforced, and maintained in the city, I'm still uncovering and onion like an onion that you keep peeling back, but my understanding that PLI will enforce the condition of the

sidewalks themselves and I am talking to Director Kennedy on whether it is the way we will keep it, so the sidewalks while they are the responsibility of the private owner they are in the public right of way and is it cleaner and more reliable to have my department that is responsible for the public right of way to do those inspections and enforcements and Richard correct me if I'm wrong but PLIs actually the one who enforce private sidewalks and Public Works oversees public sidewalks. They will continue to do that on park land but other publicly owned land is my department for some of the vacant properties the city has acquired and the same way with the parks, we would deliver the service but coordinate through the DPW which maintains the parks.

Mr. Noschese: Thank you, and Joe if I can please just let you know that 311 is very nice but it is only for the city and not the county but what would be 311 if they use text or relay? So it has 10 numbers to place a call or text as a deafblind person so I'm not sure how that would work. I was able to call 411 and I'm having trouble with the video phone being able to call them. So that would be my request that number 1 it doesn't work for the county and number 2 to use it through the means necessary.

Mr. Wasserman: 311 is a different issue, why don't you try talking to Wendy because they are trying to fix the issue.

Mr. Meritzer: Paul, if I may. Karina is responsible for just the city. Each municipality has their own regulations.

Mr. Noschese

Anniversary Celebration

TIRES Conference

PLI Advocacy Update

Vox Pop

Adjournment