

**City of Pittsburgh/Allegheny County**

**Task Force on Disabilities**

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**1:00-3:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**Task Force Members in Attendance:**

Paul O’Hanlon, Joe Wasserman, Janet Evans, Richard McGann, Sarah Goldstein, John Tague

**Task Force Members Absent:**

James “Chris” Noschese, Karen Warman, Cori Frazier

**Others in Attendance:**

Caylin Snyder, Nichole Nagle, Tina Calabro, Alisa Grishman, Bob Shingleton

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. O’Hanlon called this meeting to order at 1:03p.m. and welcomed everyone in the audience. Taskforce members and audience introduced themselves.

**Minutes Reviewed/Approved**

- Mr. O’Hanlon made a motion to approve the minutes. Sarah Goldstein, Janet Evans, and Richard McGann stated that they did not receive the minutes for October 2019. Approval of minutes will be on hold until next meeting.

**Items of Discussion**

**Small Differences**

- John Tague announced that the Western PA Disability History and Action Consortium would like to use the video from Small Differences which the Task Force has copyrights to. There was discussion on a Small Differences sequel.
- Tina Calabro will follow up with copyright concerns and permission to use video.
- Mr. Tague will arrange to get the original file of Small Differences.
- Mr. O’Hanlon stated that this will be a recurring subject on the agenda. The next step will be to get it out to the public and Ms. Calabro will do research with technology difficulties.

**Lysle Boulevard and Coursin Street update**

- Caylin Snyder, the County ADA Coordinator, provided an update at the intersection of Lysle Boulevard and Coursin Street in McKeesport regarding an installation of an accessible pedestrian signal (APS).
- Ms. Snyder spoke with Tom Rosso, the traffic signal technician and electrician for the City of McKeesport. Mr. Rosso explained that McKeesport has received an ARLE grant for this

intersection. McKeesport has authorization and it is now in the engineering stage. Installation of the APS will start Spring 2020 or early Summer 2020.

#### **Port Authority- Bus stop on Brighton Road update**

- Ms. Snyder announced a story the KDKA news ran; that the Port Authority has decided not to eliminate the bus stop by the Northside Common Ministries.
- This led to discussion about the bus stop elimination process and Community Development Block Grant program involvement. Mr. Tague will follow up with Port Authority.
- Mr. Wasserman announced the Committee of Accessible Transportation (CAT) is meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7pm at the School for Blind Children.

#### **Voter Registration/Absentee Voting at County Jail and Kane**

- Mr. O'Hanlon asked what the County is doing about voter registration and absentee voting in the County Jail and all the Kane locations and if they could use help.
- Ms. Snyder spoke with the Elections division and explained the Elections divisions involvement with helping residents from Kane and individuals currently reside in the jail with voter registration and absentee voting. Additionally, the Elections division are always looking for volunteers and if interested, reach out to the Elections division through the website, on the phone or in person.
- Additionally, comments regarding accessibility; specifically, absentee ballots and braille. Ms. Snyder said she will follow up with the Elections division.
- Mr. O'Hanlon asked whether or not the Elections division can work with the Ombudsmen and/or other non-partisans on ensuring voter registration/absentee ballots are accounted for at other nursing homes. Ms. Snyder will follow up with the Elections division.
- Ms. Snyder also provided an update on the new voting machines; the contracts for the voting machines are still being worked out.

#### **Area Agency of Aging (AAA)**

- Mr. McGann expressed how he would like someone from the AAA to come to one of the Taskforce meetings to discuss all the services they provide. This will help the Taskforce members to share this information with the disability community.
- Ms. Snyder arranged Kim Hall from AAA to conduct a presentation at the next Taskforce meeting, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Senior resources books will be provided by AAA.

#### **Airport Authority**

- Discussion regarding accessibility and the new terminal at the airport. Ms. Snyder will follow up with representatives at the Airport Authority and provide any new updates at the next meeting.

#### **Suggestions for guest speakers at next meeting**

- City-County Taskforce and the public suggested Kim Hall from Area Agency of Aging, David Voyer from the Elections division, "Oakland for All" and similar organizations.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Remaining balance for 2019-2020 is \$6,752.20.

## **Open Forum and Announcements**

- Ms. Calabro provided information regarding an article from Disability Scoop titled “Feds Working to Expand Transportation for Those with Special Needs”. This sparked discussion regarding transit planning.
  - Mr. Tague advised the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) and Port Authority would be the appropriate organizations to address these concerns. Mr. Tague will follow up with SPC.
- Further discussion about Port Authority and bus elimination. Which led conversation regarding the difference between ACCESS and Port Authority.
- Mr. McGann expressed how the newspaper/media should come to future Taskforce meetings.

## **Adjournment**

- A motion was made by Janet Evans to adjourn at 3:01p.m. The motion was seconded by John Tague and carried unanimously.