Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities
Minutes: Wednesday February 17, 2021
Call to Order at 3:34 P.M.
Members Present: Catherine Greseth, Sammi Kenzi, Steve Massopust, Patrick Czerny, Ara Baumstarck, Heather Hoeye, Melanie Barclay, Katie Peterson
Members Absent: Pat Jones, Thore Jenshus
Others Present:

1. Approve Minutes from January 21, 2021
   Catherine made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Patrick seconded that motion. The motion passed.

2. Reports
   a. Liaison report – Veterans Parking Policy
      Pat Jones was not available to give an update on the veterans parking policy. He had indicated at the previous meeting that he was going to meet with the mayor regarding this issue. Catherine had talked with the Rocky Mountain ADA regarding this issue and she shared that opinion from them prior to the meeting via email. Sammi commented that the parking committee previously voted against this policy but then that was reversed by the encouragement of the Mayor supporting this policy. Clarification was made that this would allow veterans with handicap veterans plates to park in any metered parking spot downtown for free. Patrick stated that the way he interpreted the statement from Rocky Mountain ADA was that this could be most problematic when a veteran parks in a handicapped space for free and other people with disabilities would have to pay for that same parking spot. Steve stated that there are 647 veteran disabled plates issued in the area. After further discussion Steve indicated that he would draft a letter up to the mayor regarding this issue and share it with the committee.

   b. Treasurer report – No Report

   c. Subcommittee Reports
      i. Community Outreach – PSA
         1. Next week Sammi will contact Catherine and Thore to move this project forward. They have been working on a PSA regarding handicap parking. They hope to have something that could possibly be completed by April.
         2. Above and Beyond was a project whereas an award was given to a local business or individual that provided extraordinary service to individuals with disabilities. Steve indicated he would like to resume this project and asked for some suggestions. Heather indicated she had two ideas; Black Hills Bagels and Rapid Skillz. She indicated she would send out an email outlining why these two should be recognized. Steve indicated that we do this quarterly. One could be recognized now and the other could be recognized later.

      ii. Media Subcommittee
         1. Steve would like the committee to meet prior to the next meeting for group photo that could be put out on our webpage. We are tentatively planning for that.
3. Old Business  
   a. Downtown Parking  
      The committee received the results from the state on the amount of handicap parking permits issued to both Pennington County and Rapid City. There are 13,463 handicap permits in Pennington County. This number equals 15% of the population in the area. There are 10,940 permits in Rapid City. Steve indicated he will keep this in mind when he is drawing up a letter to the mayor regarding the disabled veterans parking.

   b. Steve talked about our early efforts for an accessibility guide to Rapid City. There are several other groups that are already doing this as part of their guide. We should bring several of these organizations together here to see how we can collaborate with them to support their efforts instead. VisitRapidCity.com is one and we had previously talked with Julie Jensen. Stacie Granum works for her and maybe we could have her come in. Ara is also doing the same thing with Black Hills and Badlands with their Black Hills Vacation Guide. She described the differences between the two organizations. Black Hills and Badlands Association is focused more regionally. She is also working with her guide to make the accessibility features stand out better. Steve indicated that Tammie Hopp with Black Hills Works was also interested in this effort and hopefully we can have everyone come together and discuss these efforts.

4. New Business  
   a. The Windmills disability awareness training was held in February. Catherine mentioned that there is another one coming up for guide animal training on March 23.

   b. The First Responder Advocacy Training is on March 11. Katie gave an update as to what that training will involve.

   c. Steve brought that our current membership is at nine and we would like to have 10 on our committee. He talked about the previous application process and that we still have quite a few people who had previously applied. We’ll go ahead and choose from that list. Sammi indicated that she was interested in Jeremy Cease and Nancy Jaros. Ara indicated that she was interested in Rich Cartney. Steve said he will put out a straw poll for us to recommend our next member to the mayor.

5. Adjournment  
   Meeting was adjourned at 4:38PM.

NEXT MEETING Wednesday, March 17, 2021