



RICK KAHEN COMMISSION FOR RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
March 22, 2023

7:00pm call to order
Public Works Lower-Level Conference Room
51 Raupp Road, Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089

I. Welcome & Call to Order at 7:01pm

II. Roll Call

- A. **Commissioners Present:** Chair Judy Samuels, Vice Chair Marty Sussman, Commissioners Donna Garfield, Lexi Robinson, Gowri Magati, Avi Samuels, Matthew Dragon, Leo Njongmeta
- B. **Commissioners Not Present:** Allie Zalay, Mark Weiner, Dean Klassman, Beth Shapiro, Jack Shapiro, David Morton
- C. **Appearing via Zoom:** Trustee Liaison Weidenfeld, Commissioner Debbie Verson
- D. **Trustee Liaison Not Present:** Trustee Andy Stein
- E. **Staff Liaison Present:** Evan Michel
- F. **Guest:** Corey Axelrod

III. Approval of Minutes with Changes: November 16, 2022

- A. Motion: Leo
- B. Second: Lexi
- C. In Favor: All present
- D. Oppose: None
- E. Abstain: None
- F. ***Motion passes***

IV. Approval of Minutes with Changes: January 25, 2023

- A. Motion: Vice Chair Marty Sussman
- B. Second: Donna
- C. In Favor: All present
- D. Oppose: None
- E. Abstain: None
- F. ***Motion passes***

V. Chair report (Judy Samuels)

A. *Proposed meeting dates for 2023 & January 2024*

- i. Jan. 25; Feb. 22; Mar. 22; Apr. 26; May 24; June 28; July 26;
- ii. Aug. 23 or Aug. 30 (Labor Day is Sept. 4)
- iii. Sept. 27, 2023;
- iv. Oct. 18 or Oct. 25 (Buddy Bowling?)
- v. Nov. 15 or Nov. 22; No Dec;
- vi. *Jan. 24, 2024*

VI. Trustee(s) report (Andy Stein / David Weidenfeld)

A. Corey Axelrod Presentation

- i. Mr. Axelrod has an MBA and is founder and CEO of 2axend
- ii. Sought after trainer and consultant in multiple industries on issues of communication accessibility and deaf awareness and culturability
- iii. Recently moved to Buffalo Grove with his family; very familiar with the area and has family in the area
- iv. How can we support the needs of those who are deaf and hard of hearing?

How can we proactively push the agenda from being accessible?

- v. 48 million individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in the USA, 2 million in Illinois
- vi. There are a wide range of individuals in our community who are deaf or hard of hearing
- vii. One initiative the RKCRD can help support is by supporting a Village ordinance or requirement that businesses or public entities have closed captioning automatically on and available on their TVs (without needing individuals to have to ask for that to be turned on)
 - a) BG can be a leader in this area and have a leading impact on this
 - b) Mr. Axelrod has proposed language we can review and help to bring to the Village Board
 - c) Another aspect of a campaign could be providing cultural awareness and understanding
- viii. Other areas the RKCRD may want to consider supporting may include:
 - a) Local government and public places of accommodation to make sure they are equipped with the know how to services individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - b) What are the ways we can accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - c) Creating environments that are accessible to all and that we can support unique communication needs - how can we overcome the barriers and have the appropriate knowledge and tools
 - d) Another idea: public awareness campaign to share 5-10 tips on what businesses can do to create a more welcoming and accessible experience for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- ix. Mr. Axelrod will send examples of quality tools or companies that are good with captioning to support the Village's accessibility in terms of the Village website and social media to Staff Liaison Michel

VII. Staff Liaison Report (Evan Michel)

A. Buffalo Grove Days – Park District involvement

- i. Community Events Committee will help run the logistics
- ii. Fun & Food and Buddy Baseball will be still at BG Days
- iii. There will be some changes with backend housekeeping, but no major changes to the actual events

B. Accessibility Concern Updates

- i. Following up on Sky Fitness parking and handicap parking locations
 - a) Been in contact with Sky Fitness ownership and Zoning/Building Department
 - b) Parking is compliant
 - c) The closed spots to the door are handicap spots
 - d) The Village does not regulate where services are within a building (i.e., if a PT location is in the back of the inside of the building)

- e) Vice Chair Sussman has identified a few needs at Fresh Market including crosswalk signs, striping, etc.

C. Unified Development Ordinance

- i. New initiative that is going on in the Village
- ii. Tool that municipalities have
- iii. Village Code has been growing piece by piece, into a large document
 - a) It is being reviewed, revised, and placed into a more useful format for residents and developers to understand what is going on
 - b) If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Staff Liaison Michel

D. Ethics Commission Presentation

- i. The Ethics Commission is doing a roadshow going over purchasing policy, requirements, disclosures, etc. - they will be attending a meeting in the near future
- ii. All Commissioners need to fill out the OMA and the Conflict of Interest forms/training that was emailed by the Village on March 7, 2023. Deadline to complete is May 1, 2023.

VIII. Sub-Committee reports

- A. None

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Planning Part 3

- i. Staff Liaison Michel will reach out to working groups from last meeting individually to gather individual input
- ii. Three main themes: Fun and accessible events, advocating for inclusion and access, trusted resources for accommodations and services

X. New Business

XI. Good and Welfare

XII. Comments from the Audience

XIII. Adjournment at 8:48pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 26, 2023

The Village of Buffalo Grove, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, contact the ADA Coordinator at (847) 459-2525 to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.