

Burlington Committee on Accessibility
Miller Center, Burlington
June 4, 2013
4-6 pm

Committee Members Present:

Ned Holt, Paul Sisson, Ralph Montefusco, Shelley Waterman, Patrick Standen, Michael Watson, Mark Irish, Ron Redmond, Sheryl Bellman, Jen Francis, Elaine Zimmerman

Committee Members Not Present:

Bradley Stephenson, Russ Scully, Ardelle Cabre

Others Present:

Santina Leporati, Miriam Stoll, Bob Rusten

Introductions

New and returning committee members introduced themselves. New appointees include Mark Irish from the Burlington School District, Jen Francis from Burlington Parks & Recreation, Sheryl Bellman from Howard Center, and Elaine Zimmerman from AARP. Interim CAO Paul Sisson is ending his time in the City of Burlington and introduced newly appointed CAO Bob Rusten as his replacement on the Committee based on the CAO's statutory role as ADA Coordinator.

Discussion of Mayor's BHS Accessibility Tour

Shelley Waterman and Miriam Stoll are helping to coordinate a site visit for the Mayor to observe some of the accessibility challenges of Burlington High School's facilities. This came out of a request from a group of parents in March when the Mayor held his Week in School at BHS.

A discussion by the Committee of the most sensitive and informative way to do the tour resulted in the conclusion that a student or recent graduate with mobility issues that felt comfortable and safe accompanying the Mayor be present. It was discussed that the Mayor not "take on a disability" for a day, and made clear that the Mayor's intentions are to keep a low profile and really hear the concerns about the space, not to create a spectacle or garner press.

Shelley and Miriam took all of this under advisement and agreed to follow up with BSD leadership to discuss changing the date so a student could be available for the tour.

Review of Strategic Plan

The Accessibility Strategy and Plan that was presented to the City Council in March was reviewed and considered. There was a desire to go back to a larger view and ensure new members could review the plan more thoroughly and past members could refresh themselves. When the Committee reconvenes, the review will be completed with the intention of figuring out next steps.

Next Steps

The Committee agreed to reconvene on June 18 from 4-6 pm in City Hall to review the strategic plan, think about and possibly break into smaller working groups, and determine term limits to suggest to the City Council.

Meeting adjourned.