

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2007

CITY OF TROY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

May 18, 2007

TO: ^{PN} Phillip Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Mitch Grusnick ^{MG}
Liaison to Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

RE: Revision of Membership Requirements

Attached you will find a copy of a letter drafted by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

The present committee is asking for a revision in the wording of the membership requirements.

Please forward to Council and advise.

500 W, Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084
May 18, 2007

Honorable Mayor Schilling, City Council and City Manager Phillip Nelson,

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respectfully requests that you review the definition of this committee as it is set forth on the City web site under the caption "Boards and Committees". (see attachment) Our concern is that the membership break down of "three members with disabilities, three members in need of transportation and three members from the general populace" is more restrictive than the definition of membership for other advisory committees. In addition to the principle of affording equal opportunity to serve as a volunteer on the committee, we feel that such narrow definitions might prohibit some qualified individuals with excellent credentials from successfully applying for membership. One need not have a disability to know full well the range of challenges a disability presents. A citizen who works as a care giver may be intimately familiar with a variety of disabilities and how they impact a client's access to the activities in our community.

In addition, we are particularly concerned about the section that reads, "three members in need of transportation". That phrase literally translates that three of the members are without transportation; and it might imply a willingness on the part of the City to provide said transportation without cost. Because of a myriad of liability issues and physical limitations, sitting members are unable to provide transportation to other members. Public assisted transportation is not available in the evening. We strongly urge that the Council reword, or preferably eliminate, the phrase, "three members in need of transportation". Such action will clear up any possible misunderstanding related to assumptions of provided assisted transportation, but it will not eliminate membership for individuals who have personal means of assisted transportation.

In conclusion, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities requests that you put forth a resolution to revise the definition of membership on this committee by omitting/striking the words: "and the committee consists of three members with disabilities, three members in need of transportation and three members from the general populace". The description would then read:

"The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was created on October 14, 1991. This committee, comprised of nine regular members and three alternate members, primarily advises City Council on areas of concern to persons with disabilities. City Council appoints members for three-year overlapping terms. The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall"

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was created on October 14, 1991. This committee, comprised of nine regular members and three alternate members, primarily advises City Council on areas of concern to persons with disabilities. City Council appoints members for three-year overlapping terms, and the committee consists of three members with disabilities, three members in need of transportation and three members from the general populace. The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall.