

Meeting Minutes
Disability Advisory Council (DAC)
Commission on Aging and Disability Resource Center
March 20, 2015

Members present: Joe Greene, Jim Rutledge, John Mitchell, John Martinson, John Kocourek and Werner Burkat

Members absent: Steven Johnson and Kirsten Engel

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Martinson at 10:20 am. We had a moment of silence in honor of Tom Zimmer DAC Chair who passed away unexpectedly on January 22, 2015.

First, the Council reviewed the agenda. Jim made a motion to accept the agenda. Werner seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next the meeting minutes from October 23rd and 34th meeting were reviewed. John Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Jim Rutledge nominated John Martinson for Chair and John Mitchell seconded the nomination. John Martinson accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Jim Rutledge made a motion to close the nominations and Joe Greene seconded the motion. John Martinson is the DAC's new Chair. Congratulations John!

Next, Werner nominated Joe Greene for Vice Chair and Jim Rutledge seconded the nomination. Joe Greene accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Jim Rutledge made a motion to close the nominations and Werner seconded the motion. Joe Green is the DAC's new Vice Chair. Congratulations Joe!

Next on the agenda, Anthonette led the discussion regarding the DAC's Charter. Jim said that there used to be a Legislator on the DAC before that requirement was removed from the membership section of the Charter. Also, Werner had written a letter to Secretary Darrell Bazzell, when he was the Chair of the DAC, asking for the alternate position. Dale Petkovsek was the first alternate of the DAC. The alternate position is in the Bylaws of the DAC. Anthonette and Julie need to find a copy of the Bylaws since they were created under Andy Janicki and Kelly Frawley. The Bylaws were subsequently amended so that the alternate has input and can vote if a quorum is needed. This also occurred under Andy and Kelly. The alternate position will be discussed at the next meeting, if necessary, after the Bylaws are found. The general paragraph on the DAC webpage should also match up with DAC Charter language. Anthonette will try to get Tom Zimmer's file for additional information regarding the Charter and the Bylaws.

Next, the Council discussed the DAC vacancies and the selection process. There are three vacancies for the Council now, Tom's position, Werner's replacement and the Alternate position. Anthonette has six or seven applications that have come into her office. Anthonette has established a Selection Committee which includes Joe Greene, Julie Amakobe, Mirror Lake Supervisor Becky Greene, Keith Warnke of Law Enforcement who specializes in shooting ranges, Helen Hartman from Wildlife Management who has a disabled daughter, and Anthonette Gilpatrick. Joe Greene will review the selection criteria used in the past and will give his input on this. John Kocurcek wanted to know the current grading criteria for new membership. Anthonette went over the current criteria and the points associated with the criteria. Anthonette wants to get the Selection Committee together, score the applicants, and make its recommendations to the Secretary during April. John Mitchell said the current criteria seemed reasonable to him.

Werner made a motion to give the Selection Committee the authority to review the criteria and revise as necessary. Jim seconded and all were in favor.

The membership terms of the vacancies were discussed. It was asked if a new member automatically gets the 3 year term or only the remaining years of the person he/she is replacing. Some members believed that the new person should get the full 3 year term. After much discussion, it was determined that the applicant who scores the highest points gets the longest term available (Tom's). The applicant with the second highest points gets Werner's position, and the applicant with the third highest points will get the alternate position.

Next Anthonette talked about items she wanted to go over with the Council. First, the donations she received for Tom Zimmer's memorial was discussed. Kirsten had suggested that the funds go to sponsor a disabled child to go hunting. Jim said that Tom was an advocate for giving to children with disabilities. The question is what shall we do with Tom's donations? Joe Greene asked if the Safari Club, to which Tom belonged, sponsors hunts? John Martinson will ask the North East Chapter's President of the Safari Club to see if something was set up by their group.

Next on the agenda was the Class A permit. The question being asked the Council is, should DNR continue to re-issue the permit for 10 years or should DNR issue it as a permanent permit? Currently the Class A permit is initially issued for a 5 year period and then is renewed every 10 years. Anthonette indicated that she and Julie spoke to Mike Bruhn who is the Executive Assistant to the Secretary. Please note that after this meeting was held, Mike Bruhn became the Assistant Deputy Secretary. A Legislator's constituent had his leg amputated and didn't understand why he has to renew his Class A permit every 10 years. He won't be getting his leg back.

Barry gave the Council a brief history of the Class A permit. Since 1945, there has been some form of "shoot from a vehicle" permit in state statute. Barry then indicated that in 1987 the first Class A permit was issued. In 1997, there was a change in the statute and this might be when the permit changed from permanent to a ten year permit. This issuance time frame (five year initial and ten year renewals) is in manual code, and not in statute or administrative rule. It is policy and it would take about a two month period to process and get it changed.

Barry thought that the reasoning behind changing the permit from permanent to ten year renewals might be due to the changes in medical technologies and medical improvements. In addition, if an error was made in issuing the initial permit, it could be caught at the renewal period. John Mitchell said that by renewing the permit, it could catch possible fraud if the person was issued the permit illegally. Barry also indicated that when a Class A permit is reissued, this updates data for DNR. For example, people with permanent permits may be deceased and the DNR would not know this. Joe asked if a ten year permit/renewal is unreasonable. Jim, a quadriplegic, said it was not unreasonable, but it would be nice to have a permanent permit. March 31st is the expiration date for all disabled permits. It was also mentioned that persons with cerebral palsy (CP), multiple sclerosis (MS), or muscular dystrophy (MD) are unlikely to get better. Jim can go either way on this proposal.

All applicants will be included if we extend Class A to permanent. Anthonette said that this will apply to all disabled permits (except Class B), too. Werner offered a suggestion and said that first time applicants would be a five year and then check at reapplication and then make it permanent. Tyler said that one needs to renew his/her permit and give a time period if he catches someone with an expired permit. Anthonette mentioned the same thing happened with permanent fishing licenses. Barry said the manual code is being changed right now. This would be the appropriate time if we were to make changes. Linda Olver is the representative for Customer and Outreach Services.

Anthonette discussed other power driven mobility devices (OPDMDs) and accepting the word of those who apply that they are disabled when issuing that permit. In other words the property managers cannot ask for proof of disability. She said it is good to have data knowing the number of permits. If a person was born before 1927, they were issued permanent hunting and fishing licenses and Barry said that Customer Service has no idea how many are out there. Werner indicated that the ten year Class A permit is fine. Tyler reiterated that this is the only way to catch the permits that should never have been issued. Joe said that for the permanently disabled DAC members, that the 10 year renewal is not a big issue. John Martinson thought a five, ten and then permanent permit was a good idea. Jim indicated that the five and then ten year permit is good.

Joe made a motion that the Class A permit stays the same at five year initial term with ten year renewals. Jim seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The DAC indicated that overall, it is not a big issue to have to go and renew and it is a good way to keep track of numbers of permits issued at any given time. Anthonette will follow up with Mike Bruhn.

Anthonette asked how many Class D permits has DNR issued? Barry guesstimated at 200, but didn't know for sure. Anthonette would like number of permits issued for all disabled permits. Barry will follow up with this.

Next, Barry let the Council know that the disabled permit application has not been updated or changed. He did indicate that the licensing system was changed, by removing the height

requirement to be at least four feet to obtain a license, allowing persons with dwarfism to purchase a hunting license.

Barry also updated the council on deer licenses and tagging. The free antlerless farmland zone deer tags will again be valid this year statewide (for the disabled). The tags will contain right on tag that Class A and Class C can use this tag statewide. One still needs to choose private or public lands to which the tag will be used. Zone, unit and land type are asked. Jim asked if the patron license for a senior citizen was reduced in price. Barry answered "No". If a customer chooses their antlerless tag zone, unit, or land type incorrectly when purchasing their license, they can call and change zones and change private versus public.

Barry alerted the Council that there will be no printed copies of the April Spring Hearings brochure available to the public this year. The brochure is available on-line via the Internet. Trolling is on the spring hearing list. Anthonette mentioned that there is the electric motor issue. This change would include any motor and provides the opportunity to fish with one to three fishing lines propelled by a motor, but does not allow the use of a trolling motor on all waters. If trolling is approved by the public as a DNR advisory question it will go to the DNR Board for approval and if it gets approved by the Board, would quickly get implemented. For some of the other questions (proposals), the process can take much longer to adopt or they may never be adopted. The difference is code changes versus statutory changes.

It was also noted that a new process is being implemented requiring ATV and UTV applicants to provide verification of qualifications in order to register their recreational vehicle.

Next on the agenda was hunting blinds' designs and land use agreements. Anthonette had examples of several of these hunting blinds and handed out pictures to help with the discussion.

John Mitchell mentioned that Adaptive Sportsman and the Turkey Federation helped with a hunting blind in Northeast Wisconsin. Brian Finch was the DNR property manager when the project started. Anthonette asked about a route of travel. She hasn't been to site yet. She was to meet with Jim Tomasko, but couldn't make it at that time. The blind is on DNR property. Some of her concerns were: the door swings in, the entrance might be more than ½ inch from bottom of door, and that it is sold as accessible blind. Adaptive Sportsman and the Turkey Federation had to get a land use agreement in order for them to put the blind up on DNR land. Unless the blind is constructed by DNR, the entity putting up the blind on Department land must sign a land use agreement with DNR. The blind is not completed yet.

Pictures of other hunting blinds were handed out and discussed. These blinds were located on the following DNR properties: NH/AL, Loews Lake (Ducks Unlimited constructed this one), White River and Vernon Marsh.

Ron Ellingson a former Parks employee wrote up documentation on blinds. The documentation includes narratives, specifications, and diagrams. Jim said that many of the accessible blinds in Horicon were constructed by the Carpenters' Apprentice School in Milwaukee. Currently, there is nothing in ADA on hunting blinds, although they still must have minimal dimensions. Anthonette said more blinds the better. Many builders of blinds want to use steel flooring with

some sort of epoxy over it. Anthonette wants to go to Richard Bong RA for the next meeting. The Council will be able to see accessible cabin and hunting blinds. If Council members know of hunting blinds being constructed and going on DNR property, they should contact Anthonette to see if they can be used by many and meet certain standards or incorporate any improvements. Anthonette said she can't advertise the blinds on DNR's Open the Outdoors site (the Internet) without having the dimensions to see if they meet ADA standards. Jim noted that the type of blind, whether it is waterfowl, deer, or turkey, are all a little different. John Martinson asked who should be contacted about putting up blinds at a certain property. Anthonette indicated that he can contact the property manager. The master plans can help determine where blinds can go, etc. Anthonette also indicated that blinds do not constitute a structure and therefore do not have to conform to the building codes. John Mitchell asked Anthonette if she knew of properties that wanted blinds. She didn't know of any off hand. Tyler said he will check with Parks.

John Mitchell provided a photo of an elevated structure (blind) with a ramp. The "Get in the Game" pamphlet on hunting blinds was handed out to Council members.

Next on the agenda were the Members' updates.

Werner: None.

Joe: None.

John Mitchell: Adaptive Sportsman has a long list of events on their website. A fishing pier was constructed on private land in the Milwaukee area. Adaptive Sportsman is working with the VA to bring people out to the fishing pier. There will be a special pheasant hunt, deer hunt, and more. Look at the website for more information.

Jim: The Paralyzed Vets of America National Chapter will have a trap shoot and sponsor up to twenty-five youth during the week of August 21st in Green Bay.

John Martinson: On May 23rd (Saturday of Memorial Day weekend), Adaptive Sportsman is having a fishing event on Lake Mendota. Twelve to twenty disabled participants can attend. John sent a Group Disabled Fishing Waiver application to DNR (CAES), but hasn't heard back yet.

John Kocourek: On the way over to the meeting, he saw eight sandhills and a rooster pheasant.

Next on the agenda was the Accessibility Coordinator Information/Updates:

Anthonette handed out a brochure for Governor Nelson Fishing has no Boundaries (FHNB) event. She gave all the details of the two day event. Anthonette also let the group know about Bill Botten of the US Access Board ADA training that was held in Stevens Point on March 11th. She handed out the List and went over the first two links listed on the handout which govern (is the law) for projects on Federal Lands. Wisconsin and other states can use this federal law as guidance for their projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18th and 19th and will be a property review. Anthonette asked about Bong, but the Council had already been there. John Martinson suggested Mead Wildlife Area. This is tentative and Anthonette will follow up.

Joe Greene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Werner seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.