

# Meeting Minutes: Full Council

August 7, 2019

Northwest Area Foundation

60 Plato Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55101

## Attendance

* Council Members Nancy Fitzsimons, Brian Bonte, Lauren Thompson, Myrna Peterson, Leigh Lake, Denise Martineau, Christy Caez Claudio, Kathy Peterson, Quinn Nystrom, Muzimil Ibrahim, and Nikki Villavicencio.
* Council members Ted Stamp attended via phone.
* Staff members: Joan Willshire, Chad Miller, David Fenley, Linda Gremillion, Laure Weibers, Megan Sanders and Kody Olson attended in person.

## Agenda

* Team Building
* Executive Committee Nominations Committee
* Staff reports and Presentations
* 2019 Public Policy Agenda Review
* Council Assessment
  + Strategic Planning
  + Committee Structure
* Chair’s Report
* Executive Director Report
* Public Comment

## Call to Order and Introductions

Council Chair, Nancy Fitzsimons called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Christy Caez Claudio motioned for approval of the agenda. Quinn Nystrom seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by roll call vote.

Brian Bonte motioned for approval of the for the December 6, 2018, full council meeting. Denise Martineau seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by roll call vote.

## Welcome and Team Building Activity

Chair Person, Nancy Fitzsimons welcomed the new members to the group. Nancy Fitzsimons provided the group with a group activity. The group also discussed their backgrounds and interests, they will work on member profiles at a later date.

## Executive Committee Nominations Committee

Lauren Thompson gave an update about the Executive Committee Elections; Members will be contacted before the next scheduled meeting to nominate themselves or others to the Executive Committee. As per the council by-laws, elections are held during the second meeting, after appointments are made, this would be the October 24th, 2019 meeting.

## Reports from Staff Members

Staff members provided a brief description of items they are currently working on.

## MCD 2019 Public Policy Agenda Review

Kody Olson and Joan Willshire provided a review of the 2019 MCD Public Policy Agenda.

Document 08-CM-2019 Legislative Overview.docx:

### Minnesota Council on Disability Operating Budget

The Council on Disability thanks Chairs Liebling and Benson for the inclusion of MCD’s requested budget increase in the Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill. This increase in critical funding to the budget baseline will allow the Council to maintain staffing levels and the delivery of its programmatic services.

### Minnesota Council on Disability Legacy Proposal

MCD’s Legacy proposal was not included in the final Legacy Omnibus bill. The Council thanks members of the committee for their consideration.

### #MNParksForAll

As a bonding bill did not occur this year, Governor Walz and MCD’s request for $19.5 million for accessible state parks was not funded. MCD will pursue this goal with vigor in the 2020 legislative session.

### Accessibility of Public Buildings

MCD thanks Senator Draheim and Chair Mahoney in chief authoring HF772/SF937 to update outdated language in Minnesota’s building code in regards to the accessibility of public buildings. Language from this bill was included in the Jobs Omnibus bill.

### Accessibility of Assisted Living Facilities

The Council thanks Representative Schultz and Senator Housely for their critical work on legislation related to assisted living facilities and elder care. The Council will collaborate with the MN Department of Health to implement high accessibility standards in the rulemaking process following the legislative session.

### Accessibility of the Capitol Complex Tunnel System

Representative Rod Hamilton understands the challenge of navigating the Capitol Complex tunnel system that people with disabilities have. He uses a wheelchair and climbs the inaccessible, steep tunnel between the State Office Building and the Capitol every day. He and Senator Koran introduced a bill that would fund an effort to improve the tunnel to be ADA compliant (HF2660/SF2618). As a bonding bill did not occur this session, MCD urges this proposal to be funded in the 2020 legislative session.

### Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) Policy

MCD has been a strong supporter of authorizing the testing of autonomous vehicles on Minnesota roads and has provided testimony on both House and Senate bills to do so. Action on autonomous vehicle technology will not occur in this legislative session. MCD will support the testing and adoption of [autonomous vehicle technology](https://www.disability.state.mn.us/public-policy/connected-and-automated-vehicles/) (https://www.disability.state.mn.us/public-policy/connected-and-automated-vehicles/) in the 2020 legislative session.

### PCA Driving Reimbursement

The Council thanks Representative Mann and Senator Matthews for authoring HF2536/SF2715, which would expand reimbursable driving activities for PCAs in order to ensure the implementation of a person with disability’s service plan. MCD will work with stakeholders next year to pass this crucial legislation into law.

### Voters with Disabilities

The Minnesota Council on Disability thanks the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon and legislators on the several bills to improve the experience for voters with disabilities. These bills are: HF1152, HF1098, HF94, HF1372, and HF14.

### ADA Notice to Businesses Working Group

The bill HF803/SF806 convenes stakeholders to develop a report of recommendations regarding providing businesses notice of potential barrier violations. This bill was not included in the final omnibus bill.

### Website Accessibility Grants

MCD thanks advocate Noah McCourt, Representative Elkins, and Senator Dziedzic for their work on HF1358/SF1058 to create website accessibility grants for cities and counties. This bill was not included in the final State Government Finance Omnibus bill. MCD supports this legislation being passed in the next legislative cycle.

### Legislative Digital Accessibility Working Group

MCD applauds the Minnesota Commission for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing for their work on HF1962/SF1727 which would convene a working group to establish digital accessibility standards for the MN Legislature. This bill was passed in the State Government Finance Omnibus bill.

### Employees with Disabilities Workgroup

MCD thanks the Minnesota Commission for the Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing for its work on HF1968/SF2004 to establish a working group to analyze best practices for hiring and retaining state employees with disabilities. This bill was passed in the State Government Finance Omnibus bill.

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## Council Assessment

The group reviewed the MCD Strategic plan for 2018-2019. Planning will begin for the SWOT analysis. Planning will begin for updates to the committee structure.

## Chair’s Report

Chairperson Nancy Fitzsimons called for everyone who is not a council member to leave the room, stating that she has closed the meeting. No Summary provided.

## Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.

## Executive Director’s Report

Joan Willshire provided a written report. Refer to document 06-CM-Executive Director Update February to May 2019.docx and 07-CM-Successes List Joan.Willshire 7.2019.docx

## Public Comment

No comments from the public.