



Disability Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 3 P.M. – 5 P.M.

Location: Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 106
14955 Galaxy Avenue, Apple Valley, MN, 55124

Attendance

Council Member	Representing	Attended
Valentina Barnes	Lived experience	x
Linda Bailey	Lived experience	x
Aiden Kilgannon	Lived experience	x
Amy Hunting	Lived experience	x
Sumukha Terakanambi	Lived experience	x
Michael Cashman	Lived experience	x
Lucianna Wolfstone	Lived experience	x
David Shaw	Lived experience	x
Eva Johnson	Family member	x
Stephanie Thomas	Family member	x
Alison Niemi	Family member	x
Susan Pagnac	Service provider	x
Ann Bailey	Service provider	x
Jodi Yanda	Service provider	x
Mike Welsh	Service provider	x
Toby Hearn	Service provider	x
Michael Dahl	Service provider	x
Bilan Arab	Faith community	x
Sheila Hawthorne	Housing	x

Dakota County Staff in Attendance

Sky Jarvi, Dakota County Inclusion Diversity Equity Access (IDEA) Manager

Jessica Johnson, Dakota County Administrative Coordinator to the County Manager

DeAnn Prouty, Program Coordinator, Dakota County Social Services

Others in Attendance

Lil Leatham, Dakota County Parks Planning Department

Agenda

I. Call to Order & Introductions

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes -The April 9, 2025, meeting minutes are attached for review.

IV. Council Business

- Review and Approval of Final Council Priorities

Draft council priorities attached for review.

- Review of Library Book List - Draft list attached for review.

V. Presentations

- Draft Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan (Lil Leatham, Planning Department)

VI. County Updates (Dakota County Staff)

VII. Council Member Announcements/Updates

VIII. Adjourn

Decisions Made

- Decision: Approval of April 2025 meeting minutes
- Decision: Vote on priorities: Passed and approved.
- Decision: Written information will include person-first and identity-first language. Alternate between the two forms in our documents.
- Decision: July DAC meeting canceled.
- Decision: Vote on book list: unanimous approval of adult and youth book list for 2025
- Decision: Continue DAC recommended reading book list
- Decision: Adjourn

Action Items

- Action: Jessica will revise the DAC priorities to reflect the agreed-upon language used by the group. She will make final edits and bring them to the county commissioners' board meeting.

- The DAC requested to keep a record of the recommended book list and that the DAC book list picks become an annual event, adding a new book list every year. Library staff have indicated that DAC members can continue to make recommendations throughout the year.
- Action: The DAC will provide written feedback about the Draft Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan to the County Commissioners.
- DAC members can continue to provide feedback on the Parks Vision Plan by contacting Lil Leatham.
- Dakota County Parks is close to launching track chairs for park visitors to use. They would like people from DAC to test the chairs and provide feedback. Contact Jessica if interested.

Discussion Items

Lil Leatham, Dakota County Parks Planning Department. Lil is the park's principal planner in the planning office and manager of the parks and greenways plan. She presented the draft of the Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan.

Committee members reviewed the plan and determined the following priorities as recommended actions that Dakota County could take to improve Dakota County's parks, greenways, and recreational spaces:

1. An approach considering ADA requirements as the floor, not the ceiling.
2. Use the principles of Disability Justice when making decisions about projects and how they will impact disabled people.
3. Ensuring parks, greenways, and recreational spaces are accessible and inclusive for people of all backgrounds and abilities is more important and should be prioritized over expansion.
4. Provide programming tailored to include neurodiverse individuals.
5. Ensure access to drinking water throughout the parks, recreation areas, and greenway system.
6. Seek out and allow ongoing comment, particularly from underrepresented and marginalized groups.
7. Real-time responsive communication is critical. Ensure there are ways for people to access assistance, for instance, if access is blocked. Wayfinding features on signage allow individuals to provide their exact location.
8. An interactive map online that specifically provides clear information about accessible features and their location.
9. Add QR codes to signage throughout the parks system allowing people to provide real-time comments and access information.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Dakota County Western Service Center, Room 106

14955 Galaxy Avenue, Apple Valley, MN, 55124

NOTE: Wednesday, July 9, 2025, meeting - canceled

Next County Board of Commissioners Meeting (for your information):

- Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 9 a.m.

Meetings are held at the Dakota County Administration Center in Hastings. A live stream is available at <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>.

Minutes Prepared by: DeAnn Prouty

Date: 5/14/2025