

Brookings Disability Awareness Committee
Date: 10/23/25
Brookings City and County Government Center
520 3rd St, Room 241
Brookings, SD 57006
Phone (605) 692-6281

Attendance: Lynda Venhaizen (left at 12:50), Ali T, Aysia Platte, Rachel Holm, Carrie Smith (left at 12:29), Mark Sternhagen, Jennifer Mees

SDSU Student:
SDSU Liaison:
HRC Liaison:
Library Liaison:
Brookings School District Liaison:
City Representative: Maureen
Guests:

1. Call To Order
 - a. Mtg called to order at 12:00
2. Approval items
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Minutes

Motion to approve agenda/minutes Lynda, Carrie and Aysia 2nd.

Vote: Yes: lynda, Ali, Aysia, Rachel, Carrie, Mark, Jen; No: Nope

3. Budget Updates
 - a. ASL class vote to fund
 - i. At the BDAC Monthly planning meeting on 9/11/2025 a motion was made by Aysia for the BDAC to allocate \$1000.00 towards the instruction fee for a Fall 2025 ASL Class series; 2nd received by Ramona. **Vote: Aysia Platte: Yes, Ramona Kauk: Yes, Mark Stenhagen: Yes, Jennifer Mees: Yes.**
4. Officer Updates

- a. Chair: No update
 - b. Secretary: No update
 - c. Media: No update
 - d. City: No update
5. ASL Class: Update
- a. Mark Shared that this was talked about at retreat and Finding other avenues for funding would be beneficial.
 - b. Mentioned that possibly instead of funding 100% participants pay a fee to participate, this may increase and ensure attendance. With this option possible scholarships to those in which there is some financial need.
6. Any access issues to talk about
- a. Email from Citizen:
 - i. My name is Kalli Williams. I am a resident of Volga and South Dakota Volunteer Naturalist. I enjoy bird watching and have recently started using resources from an organization called Birdability to better inform myself of the ways birding can be made more accessible for people with disabilities.
- One of their tools is a map that describes in detail the accessibility features of birding locations all over the world. Unfortunately, there is only one location listed in South Dakota, and I think there is potential to add at least the Dakota Nature Park to the list, if not also McCrory Gardens.
- I was wondering if anyone on the Brookings Disability Awareness Committee would be interested in collaborating on submitting either of

these locations to the map to make birding more accessible to people in South Dakota.

The map can be found here: <https://gis.audubon.org/birdability/>

Please let me know your thoughts, and thank you for your time!

Kalli Williams

b. Email received acknowledging that handicapped parking signs had been placed in Hy-vee/liquor store parking lot.

c. 22nd ave Where the sidewalk stops for 20-30 feet. Maureen advised that only required if the area is zoned for that and then it is at the property owners expense. Mark will follow up to determine exactly where the concern is.

Maureen advised that individuals that raise concerns such as this, can utilize the Engage App on the front page of the city website to alert the city of concerns.

7. Speaker - None

8. Work Plan Item:

a. Mini grants? Determine year end spending

i. Aysia motioned to move forward with mini grant program with remaining 2025 budget, rewarding no more than \$250.00 per applicant. In absence of a quorum by the end of the year, the executive committee could vote on approving the recipients, Rachel 2nd

ii. Vote: Yes: lynda, Ali, Aysia, Rachel, Jen, Mark; No: 0

9. Events/Publicity Discussion (Social Media Campaign)

a. Brochures and Merch to hand out updates sub committee

- i. Brochures were available at Billie Sutton event and appeared to be well received by individuals at the event. Brochure will be uploaded to BDAC website.
 - ii. Aysia requested that the stock images be reviewed for more independence forward pictures as well as verbiage.
 - b. Speaker on disabilities Billie Sutton Oct 21st recap
 - i. 81 attendees. Some attendees present from out of town.
 - ii. Questionnaire was completed and attendees provided take aways from the event; All comments were very positive
 - iii. Mark provided a brief summary of Billie's presentation, Focused on kindness and kindness to others.
 - c. Awards Dec 3rd
 - i. Mayor's Holiday Celebration, on Wednesday, December 3, at the Dacotah Bank Center at 824 32nd Avenue. The event will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with the awards program beginning at 6:00 p.m.
 - ii. Mark will attend and invites anyone who also can attend or wants to present to let him know.

10. Meeting Date/Format Nov 20 , noon is next scheduled *tentative ensuring city staff availability.

11. Adjourn @ 1:00pm

- a. Motion to adjourn Ali, Aysia 2nd.

b. Vote: Ali, Aysia, Rachel, Jen, Mark