



**Commission on Inclusion
Minutes of the Meeting
May 23, 2023
Oaktree Shelter at Silver Springs Park
5:15 pm**

Members Present: Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson
Elizabeth Kinsella
Jason Gates
Pamela Hunt
Michael Lamboy
Jennifer McCormick
Pam Wind

Members Absent: Bruce Bach
Jason Dresden, Vice Chairperson

Others Present: Gale Koritansky Director of SMFPL
Mayor John Pribonic
John Ballard, Executive Director of Tri County
Independent Living Center

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 pm at Oaktree Shelter at Silver Springs Park.

Update on Adopt a Spot

Elizabeth Kinsella along with her husband and Tricia Streharsky planted the flowers near the entrance doors to City Hall. Elizabeth said it went well.

Overview on Library Open Forum April 11, 2023

Tricia felt there was a good turn out and a lot of engagement from those who attended. She however concerned about the one mom that said she was having trouble getting help for her daughter who is in the Little Bulldogs preschool program.

Update from Gale Koritansky, Director of SMFPL

Gale reported that Summer Reading Program at the library will start on June 1, 2023.

Tricia asked if the library carries braille books and Gale said yes. Gale reported that they don't have a lot of braille books because of size and it's hard to store them, but she did report that they rotate them in and out and when they are finished with them they are more than happy to give them to Summit DD. Tricia said that would be fantastic.

John Ballard, Director of Tri County Independent Living Center

John was kind enough to come to meet with our Commission. **Tri County mission statement is assisting individuals with disability at any age in Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties to live independently in their communities.**

Core Services

- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy: Individual and systems advocacy
- Peer Support
- Information and Referral
- Transitions from institutions, such as SNF's, to home
- Youth transitions

Other Services

Loaner Closet supported by donations including: wheelchairs, walkers, portable ramps and much more. They store the equipment at the old BF Goodrich plant in Akron.

Pre-Employment transition services for youth with OOD.

ADA consulting and advocacy.

In 2022 Tri County Independent Living Center helped over 2,000 people in the Tri-county area.

Michael Lamboy, golf cart update

Michael reported that the City was able to lend him a golf cart for the Softball tournaments at Silver Springs Ballfields and it was a tremendous help to a lot of people. He transported people from the parking lot to the fields that needed it.

He asked if there was a way that the City would get the Commission a cart to use for softball tournaments, events at City Hall, the concerts, the Christmas lighting and so forth.

Mayor said it was a good idea.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27th at 5:15 in Boards and Commissions at Stow City Hall