

**COMMISSION ON INCLUSION**  
**Tuesday, 1/27/26 5:15 p.m.**  
**Boards & Commission Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson Jason Gates  
Stephanie Farkas Susie Liberatore  
Taryn Cook Jocelyn Shartiger  
Kelly Clark Michael Stanley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Secretary, Kari Erdman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Elizabeth Kinsella

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**CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE** – The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Tricia Streharsky.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tricia went through minutes from 10/28/25 meeting. Tricia motioned to approve; seconded by Stephanie. Motion passed.

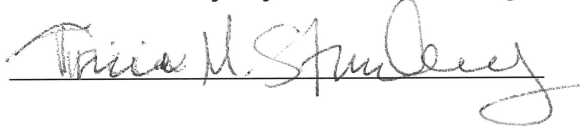
1. **Meeting Dates for 2026-** Kari presented same date each month as previous years (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm). All in favor, passed.
2. **Chair and Vice Chair-** Susie suggested Jason to be Vice Chair. Tricia asked if anyone else would like to be the Chair and everyone agreed that Tricia should remain chair. Voted, all in favor. All passed.
3. **Glow with Stow-** Tricia was the only member who attended. She said that the event had a good turnout. She only had a handful of interaction. If COI does the event next year, she suggested doing something more interactive to get people more involved. Stow teammates were set up next to COI. They had an interactive tablecloth and were selling t-shirts. Kari will have Brooke follow up with the Teammates teacher to get a total count of how many shirts were sold.
4. **Library event follow-up-** COI held the dyslexia event at the Stow library in November. Members who attended stated that they had a good turnout approximately 22 people. Great cross over with Elizabeth speaking on the clinical side and Jason speaking on his personal experience of living with dyslexia. Jocelyn noted that she felt it was very informative. Great information for those who attended. This event was nonregistered. Visually helpful to see slides that Jason produced versus the slides that Elizabeth made. They had great discussion with those in attendance in regards to IEPs and how to go about getting the help needed for their children. COI thinks that they should have another speaking event at some point in 2026 to talk about another disability.
5. **Survey Update-** Jocelyn noticed the survey talked about inclusion on all in regards to needing programs for those who speak different languages and dealing with diversity equality and inclusion for all. Taryn and Jason both noted that the survey results talked about having more inclusive events through the City. They mentioned looking into things that the commission can change ie sensory friendly spaces, inclusive events for all. Taryn suggested doing events with Parks and Rec. Kelly brought up doing events for not only kids but adult specific events as well as there is a lack of those. The commission brainstormed ideas such as hosting an event at the library, sensory friendly craft night, partnering with local businesses like rock the spectrum, local restaurants. Tricia also suggested looking at the existing events that are already scheduled to see if they can make them inclusive for all. Kelly stated that programing for adults may need to be during the day for the availability of transportation as a lot of these individuals do not drive. Jason suggested trying to shoot for an event at some

point in May. The commission is to bring an event idea/ plan to present at the February meeting where they will vote on 1 to focus on and then present to Parks and Rec.

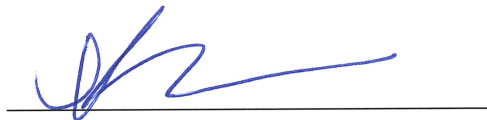
6. **Blue Envelope program-** Tricia has not heard back on the program with the City safety chiefs. Kelly brought flyers. Currently the packets are only available to pick up at Summit DD. Tricia is going to see if she can get packets that could be placed at the library, safety building/ city hall. Ohio's Blue Envelope Program provides a free packet to individuals with disabilities, such as autism, anxiety, or dementia, to help communicate with law enforcement during traffic stops or emergencies. The blue envelope contains important documents like the driver's license, registration, and insurance card, along with a contact card detailing the individual's specific communication needs, which helps de-escalate situations and fosters understanding. An accompanying car sticker alerts first responders to a person with a disability in the vehicle. Kelly covers training for 1<sup>st</sup> responders in 5 different counties. With the training they have scenarios so that they can identify characteristics of autism versus a person being under the influence. Kelly stated only 1 officer from Stow has done the training so far. Kari will send flyer to Chief Stone and Chief Prusha with Kelly's contact information.
  
7. **Nursing Home visits-** Tricia stated she had someone reach out to her to see if COI would have any volunteers that would want to go and visit local nursing homes to interact with disabled residents. The commission was interested in learning more about this. Tricia will invite her to attend the February meeting to discuss further.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2026, 5:15 pm, Stow City Hall Boards & Commissions Room due to COI holding event at library in November and no meeting in December.

Tricia Streharsky adjourned the meeting at 6:20pm



Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson



Kari Erdman, Secretary