

COMMISSION ON INCLUSION
Tuesday, 2/24/26 5:15 p.m.
Boards & Commission Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson Jason Gates
Susie Liberatore Taryn Cook
Kelly Clark

ALSO PRESENT: Secretary, Kari Erdman Nicki Wilkes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Farkas Jocelyn Shartiger
Michael Stanley

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 1/27/26 meeting. Tricia motioned to approve; seconded by Jason. Motion passed.

1. **Nicki Wilkes volunteering opportunities-** Nicki spoke to the commission regarding the local funding cuts in 2025 to Summit DD and the huge impact it has had. Many day programs have been cancelled as part of the funding cuts. She is working with the Twinsburg library currently to create programs that are going to nursing homes in their community. Nursing homes have very limited funding for programs that are able to accommodate individual needs. The goal with this program is to get the residents out of their rooms and have them interact. Nicki thought that it would an opportunity to partner with other commissions here in Stow such as the senior and mental health commissions. The idea is to compile a list of possible volunteers to reach out to about volunteering at local nursing homes in Stow. Taryn suggested that by combining this idea with other commissions it would give an opportunity to get more coverage. Each commission member is to bring 3 groups/ clubs contact information to the next meeting to compile a list who could be asked to volunteer. Their will be a set script to send out.
2. **Inclusive Event Ideas-** Each member presented their ideas to the group.

Taryn's idea included doing a sensory friendly movie like the Autism Society does with local theaters. She also suggested doing a bowling inclusive event or swimming at a facility like the Nat.

Kelly's ideas included utilizing the senior center to do an inclusive board game night for all ages. She also suggested possibly utilizing one of the shelter's at silver springs and doing an inclusive park playdate where the playground equipment would be available to those with needs for a specific period (i.e. one hour sensory friendly). including popsicles to share.

Tricia's idea is to do a "paint and sip style" mixed media option. She suggested doing seasonal themes, specific colors for spring and summer for example. Have it setup as go at your own pace not so much instructor lead all painting the same picture.

Jason's idea would involve supplying the parks bus at the 4th of July parade to give those who need a sensory break the place to do so. He suggested having it be registered so that they could accommodate those who need it. They could come and go as needed.

Susie's idea included holding the event at the senior center and doing board games or even a fun karaoke evening.

Tricia presented both Jocelyn and Mike's ideas are they were unable to attend the meeting.

Jocelyn's idea was to do a sensory-friendly, inclusive instructional craft/ art event for adults. She suggested doing the event at the library or the senior center. She suggested integrating themes of diversity with her plans.


Mike's idea would be to partner with Board and Bevy in Kent and have an event that also would include representatives from different services around the area like a mini convention with resources for those with disabilities at the same time.

After all ideas were presented, the group liked multiple ideas and selected to do an event at the senior center that would be a registered event and include activities of art, board games and a movie. Jason suggested seeing if the next meeting could be held at the senior center to look at the space and meet with the Parks and Recs department to partner together to create this event. Kari will talk with Parks and Recs and get back to the group with date and time for meeting.

- 3. Blue Envelope program-** Kelly gave the commission an update that the city Law department including the prosecutors are registered to do a training session with her on the program. She currently said that she has not had any additional safety members reach out from Stow to register. Tricia said that packets are only available through Summit DD and some police departments. They are not available in Stow.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is Tuesday, March 24th 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 6:30pm



Tricia Streharsky, Chairperson



Kari Erdman, Secretary