



# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: April 10, 2023

### MINUTES

Room Zoom

Time: 6:00PM

This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84610100556?pwd=L2FuS2Rsem1UDlNeGIHOEpdnJ6OT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,84610100556# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

#### Commission Members Present:

Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Jane Brown, Treasurer, participating remotely

Lucie Chansky, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Sandra Lingley, participating remotely

Matt Volpi, participating remotely

#### Commission Members Absent:

Nyree Kibarian

Petr Chovanec

Lakshmi Kadambi

Anne Marie Killilea

Barbara Lischinsky

Darby Leigh

#### City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Sgt. Wade, Police

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's office

#### Guests:

Councilor Downs

Rob Caruso

Diana Perkins

### 1. Introductions (6:00-6:05)

At the start of the meeting, there were only 6 COD members present (Eileen, Ima, Jane, Sandra, Lucie, Nancy), quorum is 7. The decision was to skip over minutes approval, hoping another member would join a bit later.

Moved to after Understanding Our Differences agenda item.

### 2. Approval of the March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Matt joined later in the meeting and Ima went back to the minutes approval. Lucie made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0.

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

Barney Heath,  
Director, Planning &  
Development

Amanda Berman  
Director, Housing &  
Community Development

Nika Sandal  
Planner  
Community Development

**Members**  
Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair  
Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair  
Jane Brown, Treasurer  
Lucie Chansky  
Petr Chovanec  
Lakshmi Kadambi  
Nyree Kibarian  
Anne Marie Killilea  
Nancy Kritzman  
Darby Leigh  
Sandra Lingley  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg  
Chairman Emeritus

**Advisor**  
Sergeant Michael B. Wade  
Newton Police Department

**Staff**  
Jini Fairley  
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator  
617-796-1253

1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459  
T 617-796-1240  
F 617-796-1254  
www.newtonma.gov

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**3. CDBG Report (6:10-6:15)**

Nika was not scheduled to be at this meeting, but her report can be viewed on page 6.

**4. Accessible Fines Reports (6:15-6:20)**

Sgt. Wade gave the 2 Fines reports, which can be found on pages 7 & 8.

**5. Treasurer's Report (6:20-6:25)**

Jane gave the Treasurer's Report, which can be viewed on page 9.

**6. ADA Coordinator's Report (6:25-6:30)**

Jini reported on her ADA activities for the month of March. This report can be viewed on page 10. She spoke about her site visit to Williams elementary school playground, with Stephanie Lapham from PRC and Ima from COD, and attended by their Physical Therapist, principal, and 2 parents. Accessible mats will be installed over the wood chips, already scheduled for April vacation, discussed more where the picnic table is, and the PTO will be looking into getting an accessible picnic table. Other issues, making the GaGa ball pit accessible by cutting out a door, another accessible entrance into the play structure, and possible swings. Guest Diana Perkins offered, in the Chat, that she is involved in a non-profit in RI that makes accessible picnic tables. Jini will follow up. Jini's other site visit was to the theater at Newton North High School with the theater Director, Adam Brown, and the Me2/ orchestra's Executive Director Caroline Whiddon, to view and go over logistics for the concert in May. Jini also mentioned that she gave a training to the PRC staff on Reasonable Accommodations as their busy season is about to begin with camps, lessons, aquatic facilities, etc. Ima added that she hopes that one of the COD goals can be achieved, to improve the accessibility at playgrounds, going beyond the minimum ADA standards, as there are not enough opportunities for play and access to play elements for students using wheelchairs. Her suggestion is to develop a working group for new or renovated school playgrounds which include PT/OT, teachers, parents, and COD with PRC. Eileen also suggested for COD Co-chairs and Jini to speak to the PTO Council, since often the PTOs do fundraising for their playgrounds. Councilor Downs mentioned a webinar on the PRC website about children with disabilities and field play. Jini added that she arranged to have that webinar be produced and given by the New England ADA Center, initially to assist youth sports leagues who rent our fields and facilities in providing Reasonable Accommodations, not specifically about the ADA Standards for playgrounds. Jini did add that many of the playgrounds renovated since 2012 are ADA compliant, according to the minimum compliance standards, but don't always function to more fully include students with mobility disabilities. Councilor Downs suggested to collaborate with PRC, perhaps have them at a COD meeting specifically about improving accessibility, going beyond the ADA compliance to be more inclusive, for existing playgrounds and establish a review process for any upcoming renovations/new playgrounds. Lucie added that students with disabilities should have, in their IEP, accessible play, and if it can't be achieved on the playground, even temporarily, there should be alternative play opportunities provided.

**7. Me2/ Concert Publicity & Day of Logistics (6:30- 7:00)**

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Eileen gave an update on the plans and the publicity for the concert by the well-known Me2/ orchestra on May 7, 3PM, at NNHS Theater in celebration of May as Mental Health Awareness month. The Me2/ orchestra is made up of very talented musicians who have mental illness or care for a family member who has mental illness. The COD is teaming up with the Elliot Clubhouse, one of the Clubhouses in the state offering day services and programs to adults with mental illness. She feels it is very necessary to start and continue the conversation about mental illness, to de-stigmatize it, as so many of our community members have this invisible disability, including Eileen. She plans to make an introduction as well as Stephen Chaffee, who was at the February COD meeting. The musical program are classical pieces by Brahms and Beethoven. There will be a program that will have resources for anyone seeking assistance. We will also have a couple of tables in the lobby to have the COD's brochures/pamphlets and resources, along with materials from the Elliot Clubhouse (part of Riverside Community Care). We have a great flyer that can be viewed on pages 11-13 and can be printed and posted around town, to use for social media posting, and emailed electronically to many organizations (newsletters & social media) and individuals associated with the COD and its events. Now we need to spread the word! She hopes all members will attend and bring family and friends. It is free, accessible, and there will be an ASL Interpreter. Hattie said the Mayor is planning to attend and the announcement of the concert will be in the Mayor's newsletter. Sandra and Jane asked Eileen to mail them some flyers so they can post locally.

**8. Understanding Our Differences (UOD) Support Discussion (7:00-7:15)**

Ima informed the members that the disability awareness education curriculum Understanding Our Differences, has been cut out of the Newton Public Schools (NPS) budget for the School Year 2024, and public comment and votes will be taking place at the Newton School Committee during the next 2 weeks. Ima said that she will be giving public comment on Wednesday as a parent of a student with a disability and she was hoping there would be support and a quorum to send a letter from the COD. Lucie mentioned that there is a petition online to sign to put back/keep UOD in the budget. There is quite a bit of discussion on the SEPAC list serve as well. Eileen said that she is a supporter of the UOD curriculum and feels it makes a big difference not only with students but the entire community. She asked if members present had any objections to supporting UOD and if Matt is available, vote to send a letter to the School Committee and the Mayor, who is a voting member of the School Committee. There were no objections and there was consensus among those present to call Matt, to join the meeting, thus providing a quorum, and ask him if he was in favor of supporting UOD with a letter from the COD, so Jini gave him a call. Matt joined the meeting and agreed to support the UOD program, adding that his daughter with a disability was a speaker in the program during the pandemic. Eileen has agreed to write the letter on behalf of the COD. A motion for the COD to write a letter and send to the Newton School Committee in support of keeping the UOD program in the NPS budget was made by Jane. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0. Lucie suggested that there should also be a statement that there has been an objection to the Autism unit in particular, and that collaboration with UOD and NPS should continue for this unit and any other units that some parents on the SEPAC have concerns. Jini

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said that the letter should go out tomorrow or by Wednesday morning and that Eileen might want to read it at the public comment time, as well. She said that she would be available to do that.

#### 9. Making Newton Fairs & Fests More Accessible (7:15-7:45)

Ima reported that she and Nyree met with Paula Gannon and Jini and had a great discussion as to improving accessibility at the various fairs and festivals the city organizes for its residents and visitors. Those are the May Family Fun Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, summer concerts, and the October Harvest Fair. Many ideas and suggestions are already being followed up by Paula, for example, she is roping off a quiet/sensory friendly space for the upcoming May Family Fun Fest, on May 13/14 (incorrect dates mentioned at the meeting). In addition Paula has contacted the provider of the amusement rides to see if any can be made accessible, and activities and at least one activity (shooting with a water gun at a target to move horses game) will be accessible for children using wheelchairs. For the summer concerts, she will rope off a up close seating area for anyone needing to be close to see the performers, to view an interpreter, if provided, and wheelchair accessible areas. A site visit will take place to determine the best route to enjoy these summer concerts in the Newton Centre Park. Also important is to advertise these efforts to make these fairs more inclusive and accessible, especially for children, on the PRC's website, to encourage families with a child or an adult with a disability to attend. Other ideas, especially for the Harvest Fair is to invite a company to have adaptive bikes/trikes for children and adults to try out. Another possibility is to have a booth with COD and SEPAC at the entrance of the Harvest Fair to help participants know what is accessible, to give directions, maybe have some high school students volunteers to help, too, and maybe have a balloon activity nearby. Previously Sandra suggested having accessible parking spaces available close by the Harvest Fair, for example, even make a temporary area with accessible parking, to make it easier to park and get close to the activities, which will be worked on. Jini mentioned that there are guidelines for temporary events more accessible which is also on the PRC website, to be followed as best practices, both for the city sponsored events and for those organizations conducting events on city property. All these ideas and suggestions will be a work in progress and will be trialed throughout this year to figure out what works and continue to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of these fun events.

#### 10. 2023 COD Goals Discussion Cont'd (7:45-8:30)

Ima gave an overview of the document she is constantly updating as to goals and issues to monitor that members are interested in following and taking on. She said many of the goals are being worked on but there is more to do. For example, we need to update the COD database annually, so if anyone is good with databases, this assistance is still needed. Lucie mentioned that she would like more drive-throughs for some of our businesses, like the COD supported, unsuccessfully unfortunately, for the Dunkin Donuts on Route 9. Both Lucie and Eileen said that there will always be opposition, such as traffic congestion, or not ecologically sound, and that next time we should get more people with disabilities involved locally. Some members are attending meetings which involve PRC facilities, like Gath Pool, Levingston Cove, reconfiguration of fields, etc.

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Jini commented that she has always gotten full support and quick responses from PRC's team, starting with Commissioner Banks, Luis, Stephanie, and many more staff, and their goals for every project is universal design to make the project more inclusive and accessible. Ima mentioned that more site visits, especially for the upcoming projects for CDBG funding is a goal, and hopefully members will be willing to attend organized site visits with CDBG Planning staff and the primary department, be it DPW, Parks, Recreation, and Culture, or Public Buildings. She reminded members to be recommending projects and Jini added that many of the CDBG-funded projects were suggested by COD members, more than the departments. Ima wanted to know if there is a master calendar for projects to look up, for example, meetings about the Gath Pool. Lucie recommended Fig City News, which produces 2 emails a week with all the city meetings and what is happening around the city, for the city meetings there is a link to the agenda and a link to the virtual meeting. You can subscribe by going to [figcitynews.com](http://figcitynews.com). For city open public meetings, such as the COD and other commissions, city council, etc., you can also check out on the city's website the Electronic Posting Board, which is the location all city meetings must be posted to satisfy the Open Meeting Law. The link is:

[Electronic Posting Board | City of Newton, MA \(newtonma.gov\)](http://www.newtonma.gov/electronic-posting-board)

Jini said that she could and sometimes does attend city meetings every night of the week, sometimes 2 on the same night. She gave an example of someone choosing to follow meetings about transportation projects, such as making the commuter rails accessible or the T stations, or the Better Bus Project, all from the MBTA, and all affect Newton residents with disabilities. Ima asked if anyone would be interested in joining the Bike/Ped Network Plan Advisory Committee that Josh Ostroff came and presented to the COD a couple of months ago. Barbara is unable to be a member of that committee but it is very important for the COD be represented on this committee and everyone to give feedback when emails come out with maps, surveys, etc. Please let Ima, Eileen, and Jini know if you are interested in representing COD on this committee. Ima is standing in for now but she would love someone else take this on. Jini reported on the first site visit of this committee, very interesting, with the consultant, looking at both the potential for bike lanes, but also the condition of the sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, etc.

### 11. Adjournment (8:30)

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.**

**These minutes were prepared and submitted by Jini Fairley, staff to the COD.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE: May 8, 2023**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities requiring assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec.504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Supplemental Materials:

April 2023 CDBG Report.pdf

Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

April 10, 2023

FY22 McGrath Park Perimeter Path Installation – (CD22-03A; Budget: \$91,300.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$91,300.00)

Constructing an accessible perimeter path around Richard McGrath Park. Project design was presented to the COD in December. Parks is reworking the design

concept and hopes to present a new pathway design to the COD during the March meeting. Assuming the pathway is approved, Planning & Parks aims to put this

project out to bid mid-summer, to move onto construction during the fall of 2023.

FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing – (CD23-03A; Budget: \$100,000.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$100,000.00)

Installation of accessible crossings at Langley Rd. and Warren St. This includes a bump out on the northeast corner of the intersection to create the space

needed to install a curb cut to cross Warren St. DPW has updated the scope of work and concept design for this project.

Project was presented at the December

meeting. DPW posted the bid on the City of Newton’s website on January 5th. The bid opening date was January 19th.

The contractor chosen was Antonellis Construction.

FY24 City Hall Campus – (Cost Estimate: \$42,000)

Two curb cuts to be added to connect folks to the accessible elevator entrance near the Department Head parking lot. Site visit has been completed.

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

**PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT**

**MARCH 2023**

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<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,800.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 3,800.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,600.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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**NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

*As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

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**FY 2023 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals**

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$ 70,600.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 29,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	<b>\$ 14,100.00</b>

**CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 61,600.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 26,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 24,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 11,800.00</b>

**CODE # 27 CURB CUTS**

<b>NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
<b>SUCCESSFUL APPEALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</b>	<b>\$ 5,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>



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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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### Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD)

Presented at the April 10, 2023 Newton COD Meeting

As of April 7, 2023, the balances are as follows:

Account # 5500-335518 H-P. Fines-Disability Commission

Type: Receipts Reserved for Appropriation (These funds have to go before the City Council to be appropriated before being used)

Balance: \$38,499.60

Account # 0110320-571600 Set up to pay fee for May 7, 2023 Me2/ Concert

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1500.00

Account # 01C10802-513010 Operation Access – Disability Commission

Set up to pay for targeted enforcement of accessible HP Fines violations by the Police

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$3415.38

Account # 01C40128 Set up to pay for RRFB at Langley/Warren/Chase intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$18,000.00

Account # 01C60211 Set up to purchase accessible equipment for Burr School playground.

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$1,537.00

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: **\$50.50** (8 APS units installed in December 2018)

Account # 5064D103 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$29**0.00**

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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### ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the April 10, 2023 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the month of March 2023.

#### Site Visits:

- Williams School Playground- with Ima, Stephanie, Principal, PT, parents-to improve accessible features
- NNHS Auditorium with Ada Brown, Theater Director& Caroline , ED Me2/ Orchestra

#### Trainings:

- MOD training for ADA Coordinators- excellent
- Fair Housing Accessibility First- Reinforced Walls- excellent
- Webinar- Case Law on Reasonable A accommodations- excellent
- Webinar- Parking & Passenger Loading Zone- excellent
- Webinar- Inclusive Imagery- helpful
- Fair Housing Accessibility First- Doors- excellent
- Gave Training to PRC staff on Reasonable Accommodations- in-person & recorded
- Webinar- Beyond the Alt Tag- excellent
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#### Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- 2 DRC Mtgs on NewCAL & Gath Pool
- Spoke at Housing Policy class at Brandeis University-Zoom
- Joint PF &P&S Council Committees- Gath Pool
- FHC Subcommittee- Lottery & Lease Up
- Attended City Council Mtg in-person giving Memorial Resolution/Commendation for Girard
- Bike/Ped Network Plan Advisory Committee
- OSRP Trails Subcommittee- Conservation working on new signage
- NewCAL-Attend bi-weekly Working Group meetings & monthly community mtg.
- CIP Supplemental Mtg
- Ima, Nyree with Paula Gannon- Making fairs and fests more accessible
- With PRC about choosing accessible mats for Crystal Lake beach
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings
- Commissions On Disability Alliance Monthly Meetings

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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Me2Concert\_noQR.pdf

THE NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AND ELLIOT HOUSE PROUDLY PRESENT A FREE CONCERT

BY:

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CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Featuring works by Dvorak and Beethoven

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# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

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**CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Commission On Disability**

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THEME2/  
ORCHESTRA

FourmembersoftheMe2/Orchestraposewiththeirinstruments,smiling.Theconductorstandsinfrentandholdsasignthatreads"Yo  
uareenteringastigmafreezone".

SUNDAY,MAY7,2023,3PMNewtonNorthHighSchool457WalnutStreet,Newtonville,MA

Park in lot off Walnut St. and enter via "Theater Entrance" off Elm and Walnut