



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

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
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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=L2FuS2Rsem1UDiNeGIHOEpdnJ6OT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

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+13017158592,,84610100556# US (Washington D.C)

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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

Nyree Kibarian, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Sandra Lingley, participating remotely

Matt Volpi, participating remotely

Commission Members Absent:

Petr Chovanec

Lakshmi Kadambi

Anne Marie Killilea

Barbara Lischinsky

Darby Leigh

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Sgt. Wade, Police

Nika Sandal, Planning

Guests:

Councilor Downs

Councilor Bowman

Rob Caruso

Representatives from Wellon Montessori & KMA

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

The meeting started at 6:01PM with 8 members present.

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

Lucie made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10 meeting. Jane seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed by a vote of 7-0-1 (Nyree abstained due to absence last meeting).



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

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

Nika announced that she was promoted and would be introducing a new planner who will be responsible for CDBG Access Projects going forward, in the next month or two. Nika gave the CDBG report, which can be found on page 6. There were several updates for the perimeter path around the fields at McGrath Park with exits/entrances on Myrtle and Washington St. The Langley/Chase/Warren intersection project was delayed by the contractor but should be beginning construction in the next couple of weeks.

4. FY25 CDBG-Funded Project Ideas (6:15-6:30)

Nika presented a list of access projects suggested previously that could be eligible (see page 7) , and a second list of access projects with scopes outside of the CDBG funding allotment. Nika asked for additional projects/ideas. Eileen asked if she has received the Curb Ramp Inventory but has not yet received it from DPW. Ima said that she would be interested in checking out the 2 libraries, Waban, and Auburndale, to see existing conditions and to assess the possibility of an accessible single use all gender restroom, and invited members to join her. Both Councilors suggested plans/inventories for curb ramps and sidewalks underway that COD might be able to get some more project ideas/presentations. Ima asked about adding a curb ramp in front of or behind an on-street accessible parking space, Nika said that would be eligible. Councilor Bowman asked about the 2018 ADA Audit of 50 city parking lots, and if there are any projects that might be eligible for CDBG funding, in particular, at Forte Park. Jini said she would check to see if that was one of the lots included and would review the need there. Both accessible parking spaces and curb ramp(s) may be needed. Sandra brought up that there are too many apex curb ramps on Washington St. between Beacon and Commonwealth Avenue, brought to DPW's attention several years ago, but none were changed to perpendicular curb ramps and would be worth revisiting for a CDBG project.

5. Accessible Fines Reports (6:30-6:35)

Sgt. Wade gave the 2 fines reports, April activity and year-to-date. These reports can be viewed on pages 8 & 9.

6. MAAB Variance- 80 Crescent Ave (6:35-7:00)

Beth Black, Head of the Wellon Montessori School, a tenant at 80 Crescent Avenue, owned by Sacred Heart Parish. She and her team have designed a project to finally make an accessible entrance to this building and vertical access with an elevator tower to all floors possible, estimate cost over 3 Million dollars, most of the expense is accessibility related. The building is over 100 years old, they hired Kessler, McGuinness Architects to conduct an audit to identify what needed to comply throughout the entire building to bring into AAB/ADA compliance, but some of the challenges are extremely costly or impracticable, thus they are seeking 7 different variances. Josh Safdie explained all the variances and answered questions from the members. Ima asked how close an accessible parking space is to the proposed accessible entrance at the far corner of the building. Josh said that there were no onsite parking spaces but there are accessible parking spaces just across Crescent Avenue in the parking lot, with an accessible route via a crosswalk and compliant curb ramps. Ima asked if some children

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

would still be entering the school at the main entrance with stairs, and Beth said some still will, but many start their day on the playground in the back and can enter through the accessible entrance when completed. Ima gave a suggestion to use a portable sink for a student using a wheelchair, rather than a side approach to many of the sinks in the younger children classrooms, to mitigate that variance request. Beth said they have one and would definitely be able to have one in use for any student needing front access to the sink. Lucie suggested, where automatic door openers will be installed, where the maneuvering clearance is not available to open a door, to use the type of door opener where one just has to wave at the panel/sensor for the door to open, cuts down the spread of germs, especially for younger children. There were no objections from the members to support the variances altogether, instead of one by one. Matt made a motion to approve/support all the variances being requested. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

7. PRC Updates: McGrath & Gath Pool (7:00-7:30)

Luis was not able to present tonight, although he had hoped to be available when the agenda was posted. Jini gave the update (see pages 12-14), as Nika had, that the perimeter path at McGrath is in final design, along with field reconfiguration, drainage considerations, need final approval from the Conservation Commission since Cheesecake Brook runs under part of this park. There are 2 other fields that will have new accessible pathways installed as well, at Burr and Albemarle, and these 3 fields will be bid out as a package, once the designs are final, which will be this summer. This fields project will be bid out in the fall. Depending on the timing of the bid and signing a contractor, construction at McGrath will commence in the fall or early spring. Jini read off Luis' update listing the accessible features in the McGrath perimeter pathway and also accessible features of the proposed design plans at Gath Pool. These lists can be viewed on page . Eileen asked if there is direct access to the pool deck without going through either the male or female toilet and changing rooms. Jini thought so but will confirm with Luis. Ima mentioned that the Pool project will be in front of the Public Facilities Council Committee meeting this Thursday, 5/11/23. Nyree asked if additional signage could indicate that priority should be given to people with mobility disabilities at these accessible changing/toilet rooms. Jini said she would look into this, since the rooms cannot be solely reserved for people with disabilities. The PRC may need a letter of support for the Fields Project, but seeing the design plans for the other 2 fields might be advisable before composing such a letter. There was consensus for this approach.

8. COD Role in NPS Disability Awareness Education (7:30-7:45)

Ima said that there has been reference to a Task Force by NPS to work on the Disability Inclusion & Awareness curriculum, as the final school budget did not restore UOD in the budget but instead there is a line item of \$32,000 to develop or use existing programs, not likely UOD, for the next school year. Because the COD supports UOD, she wanted to recommend that the COD should be at the table of this Task Force, and while endorsing the UOD curriculum, too. The incoming Superintendent, Dr. Anna Nolin, indicated that she was open to meet with stakeholders, and SEPAC has already done that. Ima wanted to see what the members thought of Eileen and her reach out to

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Dr. Nolin, via email, to meet with her and have a conversation on this subject, and to be included in the Task Force. Lucie thought it would be great if Dr. Nolin would possibly come to one of the next 2 COD meetings so that all the members could hear her thoughts on disability education and answer any questions the members have. Ima and Eileen felt that they would certainly invite her to a COD meeting, but seems unlikely as she hasn't started her position yet (July 1, 2023) but to begin with, having a seat at the table of this Task Force is the first step, and may be convening soon. Matt voiced support of this and also to hear Dr. Nolin's thoughts as other ways to provide disability awareness education to NPS students. Lucie thought part of the decision not to renew UOD was because there were parent volunteers involved in the delivery of the curriculum. There was a long discussion, pointing out that the UOD program is more about giving information and awareness to all the students about many disabilities, not just one, and to throw out UOD leaves a big gap in helping students understand many different disabilities, it is an awareness education program, not necessarily and inclusion curriculum, which is more focused on classroom students with disabilities to be included and welcomed in the classroom. With the infrastructure and resources offer for at least 10 disabilities it is very shortsighted to drop UOD altogether. Nancy was in favor of the Co-Chairs to begin the conversation with Dr. Nolin, to tell her about the COD, to have a voice at the Task Force table, and hopefully Dr. Nolin would accept an invitation to a future COD meeting. There were no objections to Eileen and Ima reaching out to Dr. Nolin requesting a meeting with her, representing COD, tell her all about the COD, its support of the UOD curriculum, and advocating for a seat at the table on this proposed Task Force or any other group developing/providing disability awareness education to students of NPS

9. **Treasurer's Report (7:45-7:50)**

Jane gave the Treasurer's report, which can be viewed on page 10.

10. **ADA Coordinator's Report (7:50-7:55)**

Jini described her ADA activities for the month of April. Her report can be viewed on page 11. She highlighted her walk with the members of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Plan Advisory Committee, as a staff member, in Newtonville, section of Walnut St., Crafts, and Washington St, viewing sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, parking, and potential bike lanes. Due to the late hour, Jini briefly mentioned trainings/webinars she did this month, and meetings attended.

11. **Me2/ Concert Wrap-Up(7:55-8:10)**

Yesterday, Sunday May 7, over 200 people enjoyed a beautiful concert with very moving testimony by some of the orchestra members about their lived experienced with mental illness. Eileen gave a phenomenal introductory speech at the beginning and Stephen Chaffee described the mission and purpose of the Elliot Clubhouse, co-sponsor of this concert event, for adults with mental illness. Ima, Eileen, Sandra, Jane, Nancy, and Jini helped out before and after the concert, giving out COD materials, sharing and conversing with concert goers, and getting about 25 new email addresses interested in COD events. Ima commented that it was such a comfortable, safe space for all, orchestra

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

members and the audience. The staff at the theater were wonderful providing everything that we and the orchestra members needed, opened early, so extremely helpful to all. The Me2 Orchestra also arranged, through one of the volunteers, to record the concert and Jini will send around once received. Jini arranged for an ASL Interpreter to interpret the speaking parts, and for the Q&A. Members said it was important to get the word out about the COD as so many residents don't even know the COD exist, and recommended putting on a large event like this annually. A real success!

12. NWH Subcommittee Meeting Report (8:10-8:20)

Sandra gave a report of the April Newton Wellesley Hospital COD Subcommittee meeting. She, Nancy, and Jini were in attendance along with 5 NWH staff members. NWH are trying very hard to continue to improve accessibility and policies, but can be slow and a struggle at times. She and members of this subcommittee are hoping to have a site visit in June, especially meeting with the Facilities Director. The outside door at the West Entrance will not be installed this year, but hopefully next, the type that opens when it senses a person approaching, sliding left to right. The suggestion to install a curb ramp in front of the East Entrance of the building/Surgical, as the only other curb ramp to get off and on the sidewalk out front, is at the Valet Service, where it is often blocked by a car. Sandra encouraged other COD members to join in the next meeting in June, at least the site visit.

13. Project Ideas for MOD Grant (8:20-8:30)

Jini elicited project ideas for the MOD grant this year, which opens on August 1, and the grant application has to be submitted by September 30. She explained that there is not a lot of time between getting notice if you are a grant recipient to when the project needs to be completed, only about 5-6 months. One idea given was to see if there are some popular public buildings needing an automatic door opener, either an exterior one or perhaps at a key restroom. Matt was in favor of this idea as his daughter often has issues with opening doors. Even when there are automatic door openers on the exterior, they don't always work, like the one at 100 Walnut St., the Education /Administration building. Jini asked for any and all locations within city-owned buildings where automatic door openers would be needed.

14. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.

These minutes were prepared and respectfully submitted by Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator and staff to COD.

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 12, 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 or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Reports and Materials

May 2023 CDBG Report.pdf

Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

May 08, 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.

The LAX practice wall was impacting the perimeter pathway construction. The League was given a deadline for the 3rd of April to fundraise for said wall

and has not responded in time. In lieu of the wall, the pathway will be able to run around the entire perimeter of the park with entry/exits on Washington

St and Myrtle St. Designer is re-assessing the parking lot side of the park as well as reconfiguring the irrigation system and redoing the fence around

the tennis courts to provide an accessible entry. Due to the rise in costs, the pathway cost is higher than expected, and Parks has requested the Community

Preservation Committee to cover the gap of \$48,000, which they agreed to. With the addition of playable fields, McGrath has become close to a million-dollar

project. Planning & Parks is aiming to put this project out to bid early fall. The most up to date design of the park and perimeter will be presented during

the May meeting.

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. The bid came in just a little

under \$150,000 and now are currently in the planning phase. Preconstruction meeting was had, and the contractor was given the go ahead to proceed and order

materials. The earliest start date was April 18th but contractor has had some delays.

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.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

Potential CDBG Projects -
Commission on Disability

Last Updated:

6/7/2023

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

APRIL 2023

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	34
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 6,800.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 1,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 2,600.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 2,400.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	27
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 5,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,800.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	7
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 600.00

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

As of April 30th, 2023

FY 2023 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	388
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 77,600.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 29,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 35,000.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 13,200.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	336
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 67,200.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 28,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 28,800.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 10,700.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	52
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 10,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 1,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 6,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,500.00

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Treasurer's Report

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

Presented at the May 8, 2023 Newton COD Meeting

As of May 1, 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: \$1000.00

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**

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the May 8, 2023 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the month of April 2023.

Site Visits:

- Bike/Ped Network Plan- Walk from Walnut/Washington to Watertown St., over to Crafts, back to Washington

Trainings:

- Webinar-Lincoln Park Zoo- Accessible & Equitable – very good
- Fair Housing Accessibility First-Controls -excellent
- Autism Symposium- first 2 speakers- excellent

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Albemarle Traffic Calming Design Community Meeting
- NWH Subcommittee Quarterly meeting
- Mtg with Caroline Whiddon, ED of Me2/ Orchestra & COD Co-Chairs
- FHC Subcommittee- Lottery & Lease Up
- OSRP Implementation Committee quarterly meeting
- NewCAL-Attend bi-weekly Working Group meetings & monthly community mtg.
- AAB Hearing on 15,21 Lexington Variances
- Traffic Council mtg- 2 items
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

McGrath plans.pdf

2

McGrath Park Conceptual Site Plan

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Update from Luis Perez Demorizi:

Gath Pool:

- The project will be adding 2 additional accessible restrooms in the bath house. One of the gender-neutral restrooms has accessible sink, toilet, and shower. It also has an adult changing table included. The other gender neutral restroom has an accessible sink and toilet, along with a baby changing table
- The men's and women's restrooms have accessible stalls included in the scope.
- Both pools will have an ADA lift and ramp into the water
- The project is expected to begin construction at the end of this year's swim season

McGrath:

- The project includes a perimeter path around the back of the park, along the woods.
- The path is 5-ft wide and will have access from the ADA parking spaces on the dog park side of the park, at Washington Street and at Myrtle Street
- The project requires Conservation Commission approval for portions of the pathway. PRC expects this process to take place this upcoming Summer
- Construction bidding is projected to be this fall, at the earliest. It is possible the project is bid out later than the fall of 2023.
- Below is a map of the project design.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

