



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Commission On Disability

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

Lara Kritzer
Director, Housing &
Community Development

Sharon Cullins
Planner
Community Development

Members

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair
Jack Lovett, Co-Chair
Nyree Kibarian, Treasurer
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Petr Chovanec
Nancy Kritzman
Sandra Lingley
Barbara Lischinsky
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Michael B. Wade
Newton Police Department

Staff

Jini Fairley
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MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 8, 2024

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=L2FuS2Rsem11UDlNeGIHOEpndnJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

Commission Members Present:

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Jack Lovett, Co-Chair, participating remotely

Jane Brown, participating remotely v

Lucie Chansky, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Sandra Lingley, participating remotely

Barbara Lischinsky, participating remotely

Matt Volpi, participating remotely

Commission Members Absent:

Nyree Kibarian, Treasurer

Petr Chovanec

Staff:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator

Sgt. Mike Wade, Police

Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Lara Kritzer, Planning

Guests:

Councilor Downs

Joanne McKenna

Christine Kerry

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

At the start of the meeting there were only 6 members present. Not having a quorum, the approval of the minutes was delayed and Jack proceeded with the next agenda item, Accessible Fines Reports.

2. Approval of the March 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Jack asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve. Jane made the motion and Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-1 (Lucie).

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3. Accessible Fines Reports (6:10-6:15)

Sgt. Wade announced that he will be promoted to Lieutenant and changing divisions within the Police department, later in April, so this is his last meeting as advisor to the COD from the Police Department. His replacement will be at May's COD meeting. Everyone congratulated him and commented how fast 3 years go by!

Sgt. Wade reported on the number of tickets issued in March for violations of the accessible parking rules and the total number for the fiscal year of 2024 which is for 9 months. The reports can be found on pages 6 & 7. Sgt. Wade gave an update as to the restaurant, Dave's Hot Chicken, where food pick-up service vehicles were often parking in the accessible parking spaces there. They have agreed to designate 2 or 3 15-minute parking spaces for anyone running in to pick up food. This should alleviate the use of the illegal accessible spaces for this purpose and make the accessible parking spaces available for vehicles with valid disability parking placards. There will be an advertising campaign, also on website. A discussion about where the accessible parking spaces are located in the entire parking lot for many businesses.

More members joined the meeting and Jack returned to the approval of the minutes.

4. CDBG Report & Project Guidelines (6:15-6:30)

Sharon will be back at the May meeting. The CDBG report can be viewed on pages 9 & 10. Ima went over the guidelines and timeline for choosing at least 3 projects for CDBG FY26 funding by the June meeting so that the city staff can vet the projects for feasibility, estimated cost, eligible for CDBG, etc. from July through September. In October or November, the COD will be choosing their top project, and may need a little more vetting until the January meeting with the final vote. These guidelines can be viewed on page 8. Ima encouraged the members to email the Co-Chairs and Jini their ideas for the next CDBG access project and to read over the guidelines and timeline that was sent out last week prior to this meeting.

5. City-Funded Accessible and Affordable Housing Programs (6:30-7:00)

Lara Kritzer, Director of the Housing and Community Development division of the Planning Dept. gave a presentation on all the ways the city funds affordable and accessible housing. Under the Planning & Development department and Lara's direction, the largest housing funding comes from the Federal government, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), approximately \$1.8 million, used for affordable housing development and first time home buyers (60%), human services (15%), Architectural Access(5%), and Programs Administration (up to 20%). Another source of funding is the Home Investment Partnership program, sharing approximately \$1.6 million with 13 communities of the West Metro Consortium, where approximately Newton's allocation is \$145000. Also there is the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG), approximately \$164,000 but not used for affordable housing development.

Other city funding resources for affordable housing, The Affordable Housing Trust Fund, established in 2021, receives primarily CPA funds and funds from the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance where developers can pay cash rather than building an affordable unit, very infrequent and cannot count on a certain amount every year. The Housing Trust funds projects of about \$2 million in 2 years. The presentation lists some of the projects which received these funds. Some of the CDBG funds rehabilitates existing homes (rental and ownership)

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especially to make more accessible, working with the Newton Housing Authority and local non-profits. Also funds are put into the Down Payment Assistance program where income-eligible first time home buyers are given a grant of \$10,000, and about 3 home buyers are helped with this program. Lara ended with the many ways her department advertises these opportunities, including the Planning department's webpages, the Mayor's newsletter and the email distribution list managed by Malcolm Lucas, Housing Planner.

Ima asked if there are ways the COD can advocate for accessibility, are there any public meetings? Lara mentioned that the comment period for the Annual Action Plan is now open until May 1, and in the fall there is the CAPER, with a hearing at the Planning & Development Board. As for the developments being funded, there are open public meetings periodically. Councilor Downs and Lara commented that the ADA Coordinator or possibly a representative from the COD could be valuable at Land Use meetings or ZBA where multi-family developments are being reviewed, to encourage more accessible units. Also a recommendation is for Lara's division work with the COD for broader advertising when, for example, the West Newton Armory has their lottery to have applicants who need the accessibility in the 5 fully accessible apartments planned there.

6. AP3-24 Petition-8 Mechanic St. (7:00-7:15)

Mr. Thomas Sudol applied for a residential accessible parking space in front of his apartment building at 8 Mechanic St., as his building and the one next door have no on-site parking for their residents and the street is pretty parked up all year round. Mr. Sudol had a little trouble connecting into the meeting, but he eventually did and was able to describe his situation. He said he has a mobility disability and endurance issues, where he is unable to walk any distance without taking many resting breaks. Often he has had to park a great distance away from his home, even 4-5 houses away is too far, now. He has a valid disability parking placard and would like to be able to park closer to where he is living. He is aware that anyone with a valid parking placard could park there. At the moment there are 2 parking spaces, but the Traffic Council will determine how many can remain if an accessible parking space is located there. Jane made a motion to support Mr. Sudol's petition. Nancy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0. Jini will let Mr. Sudol know when his petition is on the Traffic Council agenda, either in May or June.

7. Treasurer's Report (7:15-7:20)

At the last minute, Nyree was unable to attend and give the Treasurer's report, due to a work conflict. There were no changes to the COD balances and the Treasurer's report can be found on page 11.

8. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:20-7:30)

Due to running over time, Jini offered to answer any questions from members and guests, as all had received her report. This report can be viewed on page 12. There were no questions, but Jini encouraged to email her after the meeting.

9. 2024 COD New & Continued Goals (7:30-7:45)

Ima emailed out an updated 2024 COD Goals, most were ongoing from last year. The COD 2024 Goals can be found on pages 13-16. She will continue update with links, including the

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information that Lara offered. IF anyone has additional goals to suggest for 2024, Ima encouraged members to suggest at tonight's meeting or email her or Jack and can be added and then discussed next month. There were no new goals brought up.

10. Co-Chairs' Corner (7:45-8:00)

Ima started off with her activities this month. She attended the open meeting on the proposed plans for Memorial Park's Playground in Oak Hill, next to the Solomon Schecter School. It was a virtual meeting and there were many members from the neighborhood association, several city Councilors, and parents from the school. The city will be funding about \$225,000 but the cost of what is being recommended may be about \$100,000 more, to fundraise. There were many comments to make this playground as welcoming and inclusive and accessible as possible, including an accessible picnic table with a shade shelter for parents or grandparents to sit and watch their children or to have a picnic there.

Ima attended more Anti-Ableist Curriculum meetings where educational and disability experts presented. This curriculum, when implemented, will primarily be training the teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative and other school staff, and will take some time to do that. Many of the experts recommended using the term disability in the curriculum and emphasized that the children need to know why they are doing certain activities or learning about disabilities.

Ima (and Jini) is also following the new school buildings being planned, attending the DRC meetings twice a month, commenting on either the playground, the parking and pedestrian route, and bathrooms. For example, there will be a single use bathroom on every upper floor where there will be blocking in one wall to install a changing table if a student has those needs, rather than having to go down to the first floor which will have the table already installed.

Jack and Ima had a conversation with Jenni Acosta at UOD to brainstorm on a possible joint program, a Disability Dialogue, at the library, a panel discussion. She thought it could be organized for June, possibly, and Ima and Jack wanted to know what members thought of this idea and collaboration.

Before opening up for comments, Jack attended monthly meetings of the NPS Disability Advisory Group (DAG), having a last meeting in May before a hiatus until the fall. They are reviewing the Anti-Ableist curriculum being developed, but there is no one with a visual or hearing disability being represented. He feels the language in this curriculum is not including these disabilities, but referring to disability as neurodivergent, which is a subset of disability that is neurological functioning, which doesn't necessarily cover blindness, deafness, or some mobility disabilities.

Jack reminded everyone of the virtual MBTA Newton Commuter Rail stations meeting, mostly about starting with Newtonville station, which is this Wednesday, April 10, and he will attend.

Back to the idea of co-sponsoring a program having a dialogue about disability, Ima asked if there were any objections to this, for them to pursue with UOD? Members voiced their support that it is a good idea but wanted more details, like a theme, or specific topic, and purpose. Also Nancy wanted to know if all disabilities would be covered, and Ima assured there would be panelist with different disabilities. She also asked about a single use bathroom

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in the library, especially for a parent with a child who may need that. Jini said there is, in the newly expanded children's room.

Jack encouraged members to reach out to him or Ima if they would like to work on this collaboration with UOD, and more details will be at the May meeting.

11. 2024 COD Awareness Event (8:00-8:15)

Ima has reached out to a disabled violinist who is very interested in performing at the COD's 2024 Disability Awareness event, and a group of disabled students to perform, and the Me2/ Choir, all about 20 minutes performance and end with some of the performers speaking about their disability. Ima asked if Hattie knew when the Theater Director at NNHS would know when the NNHS theater would be available. Hattie said not until May will the school and performance schedule be ready and available. Ima said there is no vote yet until we have a confirmed date and then commitment for the performing groups and cost of the event, stay tuned.

12. Project Ideas for MOD Grant (8:15-8:30)

Jini said she is still soliciting more ideas for the MOD ADA Improvements Grant, which opens on May 1 and applications are due no later than mid-June. The projects should improve accessibility and remove barriers. The project should be identified in the city's ADA Transition Plan, and there are several broad areas, such as sidewalks, curb ramps, playgrounds, etc. where a specific project could be identified.

Ima said we should look through our goals to see if there are any potential projects there. Lucie questioned whether we should apply this year as it is unlikely the city would receive another grant, having just been awarded one. Jini said that she thinks it is important to apply every year, as it shows that the city wants to continually to improve the accessibility of our city. Jini also likes to get ideas, as maybe if we apply but are not awarded, that project may be eligible and considered for a CDBG project. Barbara asked if upgrading/modernizing the old elevator in the Dept. Head parking lot could be a project. Jini said she would check with Josh Morse to see what he thinks, as it has been out of service frequently lately. If not for the MOD project, it might be eligible for a CDBG project this year. Comments of support were heard from Sandra and Jack, as well, and maybe improve the small vestibule where this elevator is located.

13. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 13, 2024

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.

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Supplemental materials and reports:

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

March 2024

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	47
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 9,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 3,400.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 5,000.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	41
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 8,200.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 2,600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 4,600.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	6
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 1200.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 800.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 400.00

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NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

As of March 31, 2024

FY 2024 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	314
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 62,800
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 11,000
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 18,800
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 33,000.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	282
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 56,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 10,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 15,600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 30,000.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	32
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 6,400.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 3,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 3,000.00

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Guidelines for CDBG Funding.pdf

Guidelines for CDBG Funding

Goal as stated in the FY21-FY25 Consolidated Plan: Removal of material and architectural barriers restricting mobility and accessibility of elderly or severely disabled persons, through public thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and recreational facilities, and nonprofit agencies.

Determining project eligibility:

list of 4 items

1. Does this project fall within CDBG guidelines?
2. Does this project align itself with the needs of the disabled community?
3. Will this project remove material and architectural barriers?
4. Does this project align with the goals set by the COD and Architectural Access goal identified in the FY21-FY25 Consolidated Plan?

list end

If project is deemed eligible:

list of 3 items

5. Is the project within the CDBG Access budget?
 - If not, is there a more appropriate funding source?
 - If not, is there a possibility to leverage other funding sources / partner with another department for additional funds?

list end

Once eligibility is confirmed and financial commitments are made:

table with 2 columns and 5 rows

Task:

Date Completed:

Site visit

Inter-department commitment made

Cost estimate & scope of work

Environmental review & demographics

table end

If yes, congratulations! This project is officially now an eligible candidate for funding!

Timeline

May meeting: Step 1: Planning department begins to compile & document potential projects. Project manager will reach out to other City departments to inquire about potential projects/partnerships. Planning will present these potential projects, as well as ask for COD's input.

Guidelines for CDBG Funding.pdf

June meeting: Step 2: COD will review current list of potential projects and choose those they would like to see vetted (site visit).

July-September meetings: Step 3: Throughout the summer months, these top choices (no more than four) will be vetted.

October meeting: Step 4: COD will be presented with the full scope of work and cost estimates for the previously chosen projects.

November meeting: COD votes on top project. Each member has one vote and will vote for their top project. The project with the most votes will be the project

for the following year. Project is put out to bid once HUD approves the City's Annual Action Plan.

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Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

April 8, 2024

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. The most up to date design of the park and perimeter was presented during the May meeting. DPW is moving forward with arranging all necessary documentation for the Conservation Commission permit. As they were preparing the Notice of Intent for the Conservation Commission, it came to light that the pathway exceeds the amount of impervious area allotted, which in turn triggers a necessary stormwater permit that must be completed by DPW. DPW is now working to identify a funding source for the required drainage systems.

DPW is moving toward final design construction documents and expects to go before the Conservation Commission and out for construction bid this Winter. **No new update.**

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 completed the scope of work and concept design for this project. Project was presented at the December 2022 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

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little under \$150,000. Construction started on May 30th, 2023, and ended on June 16th. Although the bulk of the project has been completed, there is a vendor back order. Antonellis Construction is waiting for the push button for the RRFB. It is expected to be in stock mid to late September. In addition, DPW is waiting for the final as-built inspection and report from the Contractor. The Push buttons have been installed. The contractor submitted an as-built plan, but there were some comments and are waiting for the contractor to submit the revised as-built plan. Still waiting for an as-built plan.
No new update.

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

All work was completed and we're working to close out the contract.

FY25 Langley, Sumner and Beacon-(Cost Estimate: is \$306,400. \$190K in ARPA funds set aside for this project, the COD funding for constructions is \$116,400.) The consultant working on the design of this project is expecting to receive the existing conditions plan of the intersection this month. Once they receive this information, they plan to start working on the design of the pedestrian access improvements at the intersection. The anticipated date for the completion of the design is this calendar year.

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Treasurer's Report

Given by Nyree Kibarian, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD)

Presented at the April 8, 2024 Newton COD Meeting

As of April 1, 2024, the account balances have not changed and 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: \$ 76,889.60

Account 01C60218-524090 Set up to purchase accessible play equipment for Williams School Playground

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$10,831.12

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: \$166.54

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

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$18,000.00

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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ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Presented at the April 4, 2024 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the month of March 2024.

Site Visits:

- Accessible Parking Space at 304 Walnut St. with Councilor Lucas, Isaac, and David- for possible relocation

- Observed NNHS Dismissal to make some changes to improve access for the Special Ed vans and for parents picking up disabled students

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Norumbega Tower in Weston call
- Cooper CAL Groundbreaking event-well attended
- Traffic Council- ending trial on Murphy Court
- Cooper CAL Working Group – furniture selections
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings- Countryside School
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings -Franklin School
- DRC/SBC & Working Group meetings for Horace Mann addition
- Fair Housing Committee (FHC)- attend monthly meetings
- FHC Subcommittee- attend monthly meetings
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings

Commissions On Disability Alliance monthly meetings

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2024 COD Goals

1. Affordable and accessible housing needs for people with disabilities

- Armory apartment complex
- Invite various different accessible housing specialists to our meetings to gather information.
 - Met with representative from the Disability Policy Consortium in March about legislative priorities in housing
 - Lara Kritzer from Newton Community Development and Housing will join us in April

2. Public Building Project:

Ongoing projects:

- NewCAL
 - Project e-mail: newcal@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <https://newcal.projects.nv5.com/>
- Lincoln Eliot School at 150 Jackson Road
 - Project e-mail: lincolneliot@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <http://lincolneliot-necp-projects.com/>
- Countryside School Renovation
 - Project e-mail: countryside@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <https://www.countrysideelementaryschoolproject.com/>
- Franklin School Renovation
 - Project e-mail: franklin@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/public-buildings/capital-projects-investing-now-for-newton-s-future/school-projects/franklin>
- Horace Mann School Renovation
 - Project e-mail: horacemann@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/public-buildings/capital-projects-investing-now-for-newton-s-future/school-projects/horace-mann>

3. PRC Projects

Ongoing projects:

- Gath Pool - scheduled to open in summer 2024
 - Project e-mail: gathpool@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <http://www.newtonma.gov/gathpoolproject>

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- Marty Sender Greenway (Phase II)

Not yet started:

- Memorial Playground at Oak Hill Park
 - Project e-mail: parks@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: <https://www.newtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/113760/638351419268570000>
- Crystal Lake Park improvements
 - Project email: CrystalLakeProject@newtonma.gov
 - Project website: www.newtonma.gov/parkprojects

4. Accessibility at parks and public places, other than mentioned above

- trails
- walking bridges
- buildings

5. Pedestrian Access and Safety

- Bicycle Pedestrian Network Plan Advisory Committee
- Snow removal
 - Invite Director of Streets (Bernie McDonald) each year to discuss concerns

6. Accessible Transportation

- NewMo
- Newton Highlands T Station
- Chestnut Hill, Eliot, and Waban T stations
- 3 Newton Commuter Rail Stations
 - Project website: <https://www.mbta.com/projects/newton-commuter-rail-stations-accessibility-improvements>

- Public meeting on April 10: <https://www.mbta.com/events/2024-04-10/public-meeting-newton-stations-accessibility-improvements-virtual>

- Accessible buses for senior recreational field trips

7. Emergency Preparedness information for people with disabilities

- accessible/inclusive emergency drills in public buildings
- accessible/inclusive evacuation equipment in public buildings
- Community Services Division from the Police Dept. will visit in May about Newton 911
 - How can we keep the public informed? Social Media campaign?

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8. Inclusive playgrounds

- Continue going to Public Buildings meetings to advocate for accessible school playgrounds
- Williams Playground improvements are in the works and we should follow through to the end
 - COD approved around \$10K in Fines Funds to help with inclusive equipment
 - MOD grant approved for \$30K
 - City Overlay funds approved for \$75K
- Memorial Playground at Oak Hill Park
 - APRIL UPDATE: PRC has started to create plans along with the community
 - Ima attended the meeting on April 4 and discussed how the playground could be made more accessible and inclusive.

9. Accessibility and safety issues in and around schools

- accessible parking
- snow removal for access and playgrounds so kids can go outside during recess
- accessible field trips policy - see field trip checklist that Anna Nolin asked for [here](#)
- accessible bathrooms - been advocating at DRC meetings and some changes will be implemented
- accessible and inclusive emergency drills
- Some of the above items might fall under the new Disability Advisory Group

10. Accessible and inclusive events and festivals

- Harvest Fair - Feb.2024 UPDATE
 - How can we best keep up the Sensory Friendly area that was a big success at Harvest Fair 2023?
- Inclusive Carnivals for children
 - Feb.2024 UPDATE: There is a lot of work needed here as there is no history of the Carnival making elements inclusive, so either they can't or they don't know how to. Accessibility is not a legal requirement for temporary carnivals, which is why we need to encourage those in charge to help us come up with creative alternative solutions where possible. A bit of education is needed here because sometimes small changes can go a long way in making a child feel included in the fun. Can fines funds be spent here?
- Dedicated Accessible Parking Area
 - The PD has to be notified and reminded for every event

11. Mental health

- Bring awareness with events/outreach
 - Me2 Chorus will join us at the 2024 COD awareness event
- Continue to collaborate with the Elliot House

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12. Intellectual Disabilities

- Is everyone being served by the Department of Developmental Services?

13. Site visit group

- Organize 2-3 people to do site visits for CDBG projects
- Any other site visits people are interested in for monitoring, e.g. schools, parks, trails, city events, let us know and we can organize.

14. Accessible and inclusive sports opportunities

- Waypoint Adventure - <https://www.waypointadventure.org/>
- Access Sport America - <https://www.nchpad.org/Directories/Organizations/2263/Access~Sport~America>
- Bike Newton - <https://www.bikenewton.org/>
- SMILE Mass - <https://smilemass.org/>
- Volt Hockey and Power Soccer at Boston Self Help Center - <https://bostonselfhelpcenter.org/sports-teams/volt-hockey>
- Mass Universal Access Program - <https://www.mass.gov/adaptive-recreational-programs-and-events>

15. Outreach

- Review and Update existing COD database of disability organizations in Newton and the surrounding area.
- Collect e-mail addresses of Newton residents interested in the COD and its activities
- Office hours at Senior Center or library
- Outreach events like the Me2 Orchestra concert
- Highlight Disability Awareness Month in the Mayor's Newsletter
- Find Facebook access and establish a presence there
- Collaborate with Understanding Our Differences
- Annual COD Awareness Event