



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 John J. Babcock
Newton Police Department

Staff

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

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 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=L2FuS2Rsem1UDlNeGIHOEpndnJ6QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 1010 0556

Passcode: 279296

One tap mobile

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

+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:

Ima Jonsdottir, Co-Chair, participating remotely
Jack Lovett, Co-Chair, participating remotely
Nyree Kibarian, Treasurer, participating remotely
Lucie Chansky, participating remotely
Petr Chovanec, participating remotely
Sandra Lingley, participating remotely
Barbara Lischinsky, participating remotely
Matt Volpi, participating remotely

Commission Members Absent:

Jane Brown
Nancy Kritzman

Staff:

Jini Fairley, ADA Coordinator
Sgt. Jay Babcock, Police

Guests:

Nathan Persampieri
John Roberts
Jen Martin, Newton Director of Transportation Planning
Janice Bourque , Specialized Housing Inc.
Jim Donovan, Owner, MAAB variance
Tom Scott, Architect, MAAB variance
Joan Bellisle, COA
Rob Caruso
Christine Kerry

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

At the start of the meeting, there were 6 members present. Not having a quorum, Jack went ahead and skipped over the approval of the minutes to the CDBG Report.

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

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When there was a quorum, Jack asked if there were any edits for the DRAFT Minutes of the June 10, 2024 meeting, distributed to members in advance. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve. Matt made that motion to approve/accept the Minutes. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0. Jack announced that 2 agenda items will trade places, GoGo Newton will be at 6:35 and Housing for People with Disabilities will be at 7PM.

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

Jack gave the CDBG Access Project Report. There were 2 updates/completions, FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase and FY24 City Hall Campus. This report can be viewed on pages 6 & 7, for more details.

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

Sgt. Babcock gave the 2 Fines reports. Note that the fiscal year-to-date is for the entire year, 12 months, with a large number of tickets unpaid. These reports can be found on pages 8 & 9. Jack asked if this was a typical number of tickets for a whole year and Sgt. Babcock said yes, he thought so. Barbara joined the meeting at this point so Jack returned to the approval of the minutes agenda item.

5. Residential Accessible Parking Petition (6:20-6:35)

John Roberts, Newbury St., explained that as of last September, he can no longer park in front of his home between Memorial Day and Labor Day, as a result of a petition resulting in a restriction of parking to the other side of the street, as many people were swimming at Cronin's Cove and parking all over his and other neighborhood streets. This presents a hardship for him and his wife as they both have mobility disabilities and now have to park a distance from their home. They do have a driveway but isn't always available. Jini explained that the most that the COD can recommend is to request an accessible parking space be installed on the side of the street where parking is allowed during those 3 months, which would be across the street from his home. He said he would like to pursue that option with the COD. Jini also explained that he could petition the Traffic Council, separately from this request, to either move the seasonal restriction to the opposite side of the street or remove the seasonal restricted parking altogether.

There was some discussion and 2 motions were offered, one by Lucie recommending an accessible space in front of 21 Newbury St. 9 months of the year and an accessible parking space across the street during the 3 months of the restricted time, Memorial Day to Labor Day. Peter's motion was to recommend support and accessible parking space in front of 21 Newberry St. and if this is not possible due to the seasonal parking restriction, then the COD supports an accessible parking space across the street from 21 Newbury St. The motion by Peter was seconded by Matt. This motion passed by a vote of 6-1-1 (Lucie voted no, Nyree abstained as she joined late for this discussion). Jack thanked Mr. Roberts for his request and his time.

6. Housing for People with Disabilities (6:35-7:00)

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Janice Bourque, parent of an adult child with disability, spoke about a community living home, in Newton Highlands, she and other parents privately funded with live-in staff services, the first of its kind in Newton under the Specialized Housing organization. The majority of the residents have intellectual/developmental disabilities. Each bedroom is a unit, and families buy a bedroom unit and the resident owns the bedroom and co-shares a bathroom and the rest of the home. It is legally organized as a condominium association. All residents either work or volunteer in the community, 20-40 hours a week, use public transportation, walk, or use rideshare programs.

Staff is hired by the Specialized Housing organization: A House Manager works from noon to 8PM and manages the house, food ordered, purchased, and provide a evening community meal; 2 apartments for staff who work every other evening from 8 to 10PM, and live there overnight and available in emergencies. There is no staff between 8am-noon, the residents are on their own to fix breakfast and lunch for themselves. In addition, there is a Clinical Director who oversees the House Manager and overnight staff and also meets with each resident once a week. The goal is for the residents to be as independent as possible and to age in place. Right now they don't have anyone with a mobility disability, but at some point, accommodations may be needed, such as a ramp to enter the main floor, chair lifts for those who live on the upper floors, etc. You can learn more about the Specialized Housing homes at www.specializedhousing.org.

7. GoGo Newton Transportation (7:00-7:20)

Jen Martin, new Director of Transportation Planning, gave a presentation about the new city transportation service, GoGo Newton, which just began on July 1. Her presentation can be viewed on pages 12-14. GoGo Newton is a joint effort of the Planning and Development Department and Senior Services. NewMo, the previous city subsidized transportation program ends on July 12. GoGo sign up is online and at drop-in sessions and to date, 331 Newtonians have joined. After the overview of the program, Jen answered many questions and addressed comments, including access to wheelchair accessible vehicles, driver training, service dogs, and cost. This service is available 365 days of the year, 24-7, and travels to many medical facilities and 5 towns beyond Newton: Brookline, Watertown, Waltham, Wellesley, and Needham. Time ran out so if there are more questions, Jen can be reached at 617-796-1481.

8. MAAB Variance 191 Adams St. (7:20-7:40)

Jim Donovan, owner, and Tom Scott, architect, for a proposed business at 191 Adams St. explained the reason for the variance. Previously this location was a private organization, not open to the public, so this falls under Change of Use which requires to make the entrance accessible. Due to the age and configuration of the building, and its location of the 3 steps in front so close to the sidewalk, there isn't room for a compliant ramp, in order to get in the front door. Mr. Donovan explained that the rear door entrance to his business is at grade and with minor modifications, can be made accessible for a wheelchair user. This requires the patron to go around to a driveway in back, where there are also 2 parking spaces, make the threshold compliant, and keep clear of obstacles, a 3-foot pathway, from this rear door through one side of the kitchen/prep area, to the counter. The proposed shop is a sandwich shop, to be called The Nonantum Pressroom, selling panini sandwiches, no table service, just ordering and picking up. He will install a sign at the front entrance directing where the

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accessible entrance is located around back and will install doorbell/buzzer for the rear door. He will offer curbside service. There were several questions and suggestions, such as putting a railing on the existing stairs out front, for those who might have difficulty with stairs, and striping to indicate, alongside the driveway/alley, a walkway to his rear door, and a motion-sensor light.

Barbara made a motion to support the variance with all the recommendations discussed here. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

9. Treasurer's Report (7:40-7:45)

Nyree reported that there were no changes to the balances of the COD accounts. This Treasurer's report can be found on page 10.

10. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:45-7:50)

Due to the lateness of the hour, Jini asked if there were any questions about her report, rather than giving a report. There were no questions. Her report can be found on page 11.

11. July 17 Disability Pride Event (7:50-8:10)

All received the flyer with all the information of this upcoming Disability Pride event, co-sponsored with Understanding Our Differences and the Library, at the Newton Free Library on Wednesday, July 17 at 7PM. Ima reminded the members that she requested a short video submission about what disability pride means to them, but no pressure to submit. There will be a video montage at the beginning of the program. Ima also requested a volunteer to be at the COD table to answer questions and hand out the COD brochure and the Service Dog pamphlet, before and after the program. Sandra volunteered and will ask Jane if she can join her. Three of the panelists are COD members, Barbara, Jack, and Nyree. Nathan and Robert Solomon are the remaining panelists. Gary Alpert, Co-President of UOD will be the moderator. The mayor will make introductory remarks, several Councilors in attendance, and Ima thinks it will be a well-attended event. NewTV is filming it for future posting, and it will also be a virtual event on Zoom. There will be ASL Interpreters, and the library is fully accessible, including Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs). Ima encouraged everyone to attend and spread the word to family, friends, and networks.

12. Co-Chairs' Corner (8:10-8:20)

Jack reported that he did attend, as member, the Disability Advisory Group, begun by the Newton Public Schools to advise the Asst. Supt. Of Student Services. It was primarily a discussion as to the advocacy and goals of this group for next school year. Jack also mentioned that he will be reaching out to individual COD members for a one-on-one if they are interested this summer. Ima accompanied Jini on 2 site visits, the new Gath Pools Facility and Williams School Playground. Gath has an accessible ramp into the main entrance, 2 accessible restrooms and changing rooms, one with shower and adult changing table, lifts and ramps into both pools and accessible walkway to splash pad. She encouraged members to check it out. The swing structure and swings have

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been installed at Williams Playground, funded by the MOD grant and COD fines fund. Over the summer more accessibility improvements will be made there.

13. August Hiatus Vote (8:20-8:30)

Barbara made a motion to have an August hiatus, i.e. no COD meeting in August. Nyree seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

14. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 9, 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/reports:

Newton Commission on Disability

CDBG Access Projects Report

July 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. **This project has been completed. The entire COD Budget of \$100,000.00 has been expended.**

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

All work was completed for this project. The final cost for the construction of City Hall Drive was \$32,630.75, which leaves a balance of \$9,369.25.

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. **No new update.**

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NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

June 2024

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	33
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 6,600.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 2,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 2,800.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	30
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 6,000.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 2,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,400.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,400.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	3
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 600.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 200.00
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 June 30, 2024

FY 2024 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	429
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 85,800.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 18,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 25,400.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 41,600.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	379
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 75,800.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 18,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 20,400.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 37,200.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	50
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 10,000.00
SUCCESSFUL APPEALS	\$ 600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 4,400.00

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Treasurer's Report

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

Presented at the July 8, 2024 Newton COD Meeting

As of July 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 July 8, 2024 Newton Commission On Disability meeting, for activities during the month of June, 2024.

Site Visits:

- Williams School New Swings funded by MOD grant- with Ima and Ahron from PRC
- Gath Facility- with Ima and Rafik from Public Buildings

Trainings:

- **Webinar: Accessibility of state and local government-funded facilities**
- **Webinar: crisis Intervention, Autism, and Developmental Disabilities: Considerations for De-Escalation-excellent**
- **Webinar: Tenant Talk-focused on disability- not that informative**
- **Fair Housing Training for Leaders & Policy Makers- excellent**
- **ADA Title II Regulations for accessibility for Website and apps**

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- MassDOT Short & Medium range changes for Newton Corner
- Traffic Council-New AP Request for 8 Mechanic St.- passed
- Cooper CAL Working Group & construction community mtgs
- 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 when scheduled
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings

Commissions On Disability Alliance monthly meetings

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Presentation -Commission on Disability GoGo 2024.07.08.pdf

Commission on Disability

Planning & Senior Services Department

July 8, 2024

City of Newton

GoGo@newtonma.gov

Discussion Regarding On-Demand Transportation System

Introducing:

GoGo Newton Logo

Outline for Slides

Background

About GoGo

GoGo Newton

Questions

Background

Background

A person and person in a car

GoGo Newton Logo

-
- Prior to 2019 – City provides older adults with discount taxi trips
-
- June 2019 – NewMo launches
-
- At its peak, provided 6,000-8,000 trips per month
-
- November 2023 – City issues RFP
-
- Prepares for 6/30/2024 contract expiration
-
- Opportunity to improve service for most important users
-
- July 1, 2024 – GoGo Newton to launch!

About GoGo

Our mission is to make on-demand services accessible and reliable so we can thrive independently and confidently at home and in the community as we age.

GoGo

GoGo was founded in 2016

GoGo's available across the US and Canada and in Watertown and Brookline

GoGo has fulfilled 7.8 million requests

1000+ proud partners

#1 largest virtual retirement community

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12 million + Days
(Grouped Object)

Hand holding cellphone
User requests rides by phone or web page
GoGo connects riders with Uber, Lyft or WAV vehicles

Lyft Rides With Gogo for Seniors and People With Disabilities
Hand holding cellphone

A screenshot of a computer

- 24/7 Amenity Support, 365 days a year, bilingual
 - 7-year background check for drivers
 - Real-time monitoring on all service requests
 - 1-touch dial phone system
 - Supports 20+ unique impairments
 - Realtime emergency support
- GoGo Guardians

Process:

Ride Requested - gather passenger info, gather trip destinations, crosscheck destination/pickup profiles.
Driver Assigned - crosscheck car type, crosscheck driver profile, call driver if needed
Trip Pickup - wayfind drivers to correct pickup location, reorder rides if cancelled, broker.
Trip Completed - receipt call, satisfaction survey, notify loved ones.

GoGo: Information Form
GoGo Newton Logo

Visually Impaired
Uses a Cane/Leg Braces
Uses a Walker/ Crutches
Manual Wheelchair
Power Wheelchair/ Scooter
Hard of Hearing
Service Dog
Portable Oxygen Tank/ Respirator
Poor Memory
Cannot get into big cars
Cannot get into small cars
Verbally impaired
Slow Walker

GoGo Newton: WAV rides

Carry On Services, Inc.
WAV rides with 48 hours notice. All vehicles can accommodate a motorized scooter or wheelchair with a ramp.
Uber WAV Rides
On Demand as vehicles are available
Lyft WAV Rides
GoGo is looking into this program

GoGo Newton
Service

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Parameters

- On-demand service & Pre-scheduled
- 24/7/365 service
- Expanded service area
- Improved customer service
- Greater reliability
- Wait times < 20 minutes
- Launches 7/1/2024

Map

Riders & Fares

Very Low Income:

- All (18+)
- 12 one-way trips each month
- Rider pays \$4- Newton pays next \$10- Rider pays the rest

Low Income:

- Older Adults (65+)& People with Disabilities (18+)
- 8 one-way trips each month
- Rider pays \$6- Newton pays next \$8- Rider pays the rest

Any income: Older Adults (65+)

- & People with Disabilities (18+)
- 4 one-way trips each month
- Rider pays \$8- Newton pays next \$6- Rider pays the rest

\$5 fee to speak with a customer service agent Newton pays this fee for your subsidized rides

- Communicating the Transition
- Boxes outlining our communications

Outreach and Enrollment Sessions

Drop-In Enrollment & Info Sessions

Questions

For more information

- newtonma.gov/gogo
- 617-796-GOGO
- gogo@newtonma.gov