



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: November 18, 2019
Room 204
Time: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

Amanda Berman
Director, Housing &
Community Development

Tiffany Leung
Planner
Community Development

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Warren Abramson
Lucie Chansky
Lakshmi Kadambi
Anne Marie Killilea
Rosemary Larking
Sandra Lingley
Barbara Lischinsky
Eileen Sandberg
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Bob Lee, Jr.
Newton Police Department

Staff

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

1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459
T 617-796-1240
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Commission Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-chair
Girard Plante, Co-chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Warren Abramson, participating remotely
Lucie Chansky
Lakshmi Kadambi
Anne Marie Killilea
Rosemary Larking, participating remotely
Sandra Lingley
Barbara Lischinsky
Eileen Sandberg
Matt Volpi

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
Tiffany Leung, Planning
Sgt. Bob Lee, Police
Dana Hanson, Mayor's Office

Guests:

Representatives from the Jewish Community Center
Nathan Persampieri

1. Introductions (6:30-6:35)

All members were present, either in person or on the phone, at the time of introductions.

2. Approval of 10/21/2019 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:40)

Rob asked if there were any additions/corrections to the 10/21/19 minutes, distributed in advance. Hearing none, Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as read/distributed, and Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-1 (Barbara abstaining as she was absent last month).

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3. CDBG Report (6:40-6:45)

Tiffany gave her report of the access projects funded by CDBG, see page 7. There were no questions.

4. RRFB Location for CDBG 2020 Funding (6:45-6:55)

Tiffany explained that the bid for the 3 RRFBs approved by the COD for FY20 CDBG funding, came in low, so there will be enough CDBG funds to install a 4th RRFB. The following locations were suggested by DPW and Jini, and sent to members in advance:

Crossing River Street near Elm St.- Burr school children often cross River St. and travel via Auburndale Ave and Washburn to school. There is also a MBTA bus stop on Elm at River St. River Street is very busy and cars travel fast.

Crossing Centre Street near Cushing and Clark Streets- There is a crosswalk here just north of Cushing Street with MBTA bus stops, Weeks House east in the residential area, Green line station southwest of this crossing. High pedestrian and vehicle volume in this area.

Crossing Walnut St. near Linwood- new crosswalk with crossing guard, used primarily by school children walking to the new Horace Mann school (formerly Carr School). Also used by students walking to Day Middle School, even though there is a crosswalk close by on Walnut St. at Minot Place with a crossing guard, as well. This is a high vehicle and pedestrian volume crossing during rush hours.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Jane for each member to vote on only one of these locations for the additional RRFB. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Barbara voted for Centre, Sandra voted for Centre, Eileen, Centre, Anne Marie voted for Walnut, Lakshmi voted for River, Jane voted for River, Matt voted for Centre, Lucie voted for Walnut, Girard voted for River, Rob voted for River, Warren voted for River, and Rosemary voted for River. The tally was 6 votes for River, 4 votes for Centre, and 2 votes for Walnut, thus the 4th location for the CDBG funded RRFBs will be crossing River near Elm, unless the city is awarded a grant for 4 RRFBs from MOD which will be known in mid-December.

5. Fines Reports (6:55-7:00)

Accessible (HP)

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Sgt. Lee gave 2 Fines reports, one for the activity during October and one for the fiscal year 2020 (4 months). These reports can be view on pages 8 and 9.

6. Treasurer’s Report (7:00-7:05)

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

7. ADA Coordinator’s Report (7:05-7:10)

Jini gave her report of ADA activities, which can be viewed on page 11.

8. AAB Time Variance-JCC (7:10-7:25)

Janice Robbins, Inclusion Director, and Brian Morris, Facilities Director, presented the reason for the AAB variance being sought by the JCC. They are modernizing an old elevator which will prevent wheelchair access to an upper level in their fitness area, for 8 weeks, starting in January. They will be providing a chair lift, which the JCC is renting, for the stairs leading to this upper level. It is not a platform stair lift, so individuals who use wheelchairs would need to transfer to the chair part of the lift. There will be staff available for anyone needing this assistance. In addition, some classes usually held on this upper level will be moved to the main floor during this time. The track above the gym will be replicated around the perimeter of the gym floor, which is on the main accessible level. If any of these changes during the elevator work do not meet the needs of members, the members can take equivalent classes at the West Suburban YMCA in Newton, free of charge.

After some discussion and Q&A, a motion was made by Lucie to support the variances the JCC have applied for. Jane seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed by a vote of 12-0.

9. MBTA at Riverside (7:25-7:30)

Girard reported on his efforts to contact the MBTA to have them make a walk-through at the Riverside MBTA station and surrounding sidewalk on Grove Street, as for many years, the vegetation has grown over the sidewalk at least 4 feet. This visit occurred in July where Girard pointed out the vegetation outgrowth which can cause an unsafe situation, especially for T riders exiting the station. During the walk-through, the MBTA officials were thorough in looking at the entire property including the parking lot. Since then, the MBTA has trimmed back the vegetation protruding into the

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sidewalk. Roots of a very large tree are heaving the sidewalk and they will check who owns the tree, whether the city or the MBTA, for possible removal in the spring. After his report, Barbara said she applauded his efforts, but asked Girard why he did this on his own and without discussing this with the entire Commission and yet was acting on behalf of the COD, as their Co-chair. She said that COD members can't be doing their own thing, willy nilly, without telling others, as there would be chaos. She also said that she has complained about the pathway between the Waban T tracks and Starbucks, especially near the bike racks where there is also bushes/vegetation overhanging the sidewalk. Girard saw no need to run this by anyone in advance, and will not do so, even in the future. Much heated discussion ensued by several members, who agreed with Barbara, that activities undertaken by any COD member, including Co-chairs, should be run by/get approval by the entire commission, and not act independently of the Commission.

10. Transportation Committee/Meeting Application (7:30-7:40)

Last summer Eileen attended the community meeting on the MBTA's plans to make the Newton commuter rail stations wheelchair accessible, and feels that the COD should be following this and other accessibility transportation projects, such as the Newton Highlands Green Line station. She made a motion to establish a Transportation Committee of the COD. Jane seconded the motion. There wasn't a vote, but there were volunteers who would like to be on this committee: Eileen, Lakshmi, Anne Marie, and Barbara. Rob said a vote wasn't necessary as the Chair can establish a committee and appoint or ask for volunteers. So there is now a Transportation Committee of the COD with the 4 members who just volunteered.

Eileen's other suggestion was to use a 'meeting application' software, like ZOOM or SKYPE, so that COD members participating remotely could see presentations up on the monitor, and see the members faces in the meeting room, and participate more fully in the meeting. And if the members participating remotely have a camera on their computer or IPAD could also be seen, if they wanted that. Jini checked with IT, as Eileen mentioned this idea to her, and the city uses SKYPE for BUSINESS. She will look into it since it appeared that there was consensus that the members were interested in this possibility.

11. MOD on Voting/Annual Officer Election (7:40-7:50)

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Rob reported that he checked in with Jeff Dougan at MOD and confirmed that, under the Open Meeting Law, all votes at a public meeting are also public and not a secret ballot. Jini mentioned that she also asked Marie Lawlor from the city's Law department, with the same response.

12.Candidate for COD Membership-Tyrone Hooks (7:50-8:00)

Tyrone was not present at the meeting so this agenda item was tabled.

13.Upcoming Disability Events with Nathan (8:00-8:15)

Nathan is assisting Understanding Our Differences, a non-profit which teaches disability awareness in the elementary schools, here in Newton and many other school districts, who obtained the rights to show the movie, Intelligent Lives, at the Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium, on February 4, at 7PM. Jini distributed the flyer electronically and Nathan encouraged the COD members to spread the word and bring family and friends to this movie. He also suggested disability-related events to provide more disability awareness here in the city, especially to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the ADA on July 26, and/or during the month of October, which is National disability employment month. Some ideas might be to have tables from different Newton disability organizations, such as Understanding Our Differences, The Carroll Center for the Blind, and the COD, and more, like a fair, or showing another movie called Lives Worth Living, which several members have seen and commented it would be excellent. Nathan also mentioned the Youth Leadership Network of Easter Seals have a monthly call for youth with disabilities. He also had ideas to use social media to promote disability history. Since this is educating the public about disability, Nathan would like to join the COD members of the newly formed Education Committee and will discuss further ideas by Nathan and other members.

14.Old/New Business (8:15-8:30)

Lucie asked if the 2020 meeting dates have been sent out or discussed yet. Jini said that she delayed giving out next year dates until December so that threw as no confusion for the fall dates in 2019. She has them ready and will be sending them in advance of the December meeting, where they can be discussed. Jini did mention that the dates in 2020 stay on the second Monday of the month for every month except October, as there is always a conflict with that holiday, since it always falls on the second Monday of October. In 2020, October's meeting will be on the 3rd Monday of October.

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Anne Marie had 2 items. She wanted the minutes which mentioned the Newton-Wellesley Hospital meeting to reflect that she brought up the issue that patients with hearing loss have great difficulty during tests, such as Mammograms, CT Scans, and MRIs. Jini said that she summarizes discussions in the minutes, but she will go back and add that it was a subject covered at that meeting.

Anne Marie also spoke about her concern for the tone of the email exchanges that took place after the October COD meeting. She would like to hear less rhetoric and less anger in meetings and in emails among members. She would like to see all the members get along with each other and respect each one's opinions and points of view. When she read those email they were very hard to read and found them very hurtful and disturbing, coming from the COD Co-chairs, and sending them beyond the COD members, was very inappropriate. If a member has an issue with another member, take it up one-on-one, keep it to yourselves. Lucie thanked Anne Marie for speaking up on her reaction to those emails and she doesn't know why she returned, as it was very hard for her to do. Many members agreed with Anne Marie and spoke up.

15. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 9, 2019

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.

Reports:

**Newton Commission on Disability
CDBG Access Projects Report
November 18, 2019**

FY20 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) – (CD20-03A; Budget: \$60,000; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$60,000) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of three sets of RRFBs at the following intersections: Centre Street/Pleasant Street; Christina Street; and Lincoln Street at Chester Street. **Dagle Electrical was the lowest bidder at \$62,888. Staff is seeking COD's vote for the 4th RRFB crosswalk location.**

FY20 Park Pathway Installations – (CD20-03B; Budget: \$30,500; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$30,500) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of park pathways across the City. 7 parks were identified, including Auburndale Playground, Cabot Park, Countryside School, Franklin School, Upper Falls Playground, Weeks Park, and West Newton Common. **Staff and Parks and Rec are preparing a bid document to solicit contractors for pathway installation.**

FY20 Curb Cut Pool – (CD20-03C; Budget: 31,882.33; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$31,882.33) The COD voted to allocate FY20 architectural access funds to the installation of curb cuts. **DPW will provide an update in January.**

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	33
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 6,900.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 4,500.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	17
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 3,400.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,000.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	16
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 3,500.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 000.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,000.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,500.00

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

As of OCTOBER 31st, 2019

FY 2020 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	110
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 22,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 6,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 8,800.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 6,820.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	67
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 13,500.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 5,400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 4,600.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 3,515.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	43
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 8,700.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 4,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 3,305.00

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Commission On Disability

Presented at the November 18, 2019 COD Meeting

As of November 15, 2019, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since last month and are as follows:

Account #14-3314M3 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: \$59,883 (may be updated in late November)

Account # C108006-513001 Operation Access – Disability Commission

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

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$2102.97 (will be updated in late November)

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 #13D10901 Set up in Fall 2015 to receive Community Access Monitor Program fees and pay expenses)

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: **\$940.00**

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, and presented at the November 18, 2019 COD meeting.

Site Visits:

- Curb Ramps with Tiffany- Franklin School neighborhoods
- Waban Library- with Rafik, meeting students with accessible design project
- Additional RRFB location possibilities with Tiffany

Trainings:

- Lunch & Learn at IHCD- speaker on Accessible Infrastructure

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Traffic Council- ON-street space out front of CVS
- Newton Historic Commission- railings out front on City Hall steps
- Know Your Civil Rights- MCAD presented
- Finance Council- for transfer of funds for Holiday Operation Access 2019
- Affordable Housing 101- organized by HHS
- NewCAL- every other week meeting
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend, every other week
- CODA- monthly meeting- on phone with other CODs and ADA Coordinators
- Development Review Team (DRTs) –Riverdale 40B housing development