



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: April 8, 2019
Room 204
Time: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

Rachel Powers
Manager
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
Matt Volpi

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Bob Lee, Jr.
Newton Police Department

Staff

Jini Fairley
ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator
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Commission Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-chair
Girard Plante, Co-chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Lucie Chansky
Barbara Lischinsky
Rosemary Larking, participating remotely
Anne Marie Killilea
Sandra Lingley
Matt Volpi
Lakshmi Kadambi, participating remotely (from India)

Commission Members Absent:

Warren Abramson

City Staff Present:

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

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

Once we figured out to unmute the phone, the meeting began with all members present, either in person or on the phone, except Warren, who wasn't feeling well tonight.

2. Approval of 3/11/19 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:40)

Rob asked if there were any changes to the minutes that were distributed in advance. Hearing none, Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1 (Girard abstained).

3. CDBG Report (6:40-6:50)

Tiffany gave the following CDBG Access Project report:



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Highlands Playground Access – (CD15-032 Budget: \$123,750.00; Expended: \$117,562.50; Balance: \$6,187.50). Accessible pathways component began in spring 2017 with contractor David White & Son. **No update.**

FY19 City Hall Wheelchair Accessible Single Use Toilet Room- (CD19-03A Budget: \$114,822.33; Expended \$0; Balance: \$114,822.33) The COD voted to allocate FY19 architectural access funds to the installation of a wheelchair accessible toilet room on the first floor of City Hall. The project will be managed by the City of Newton Public Buildings Department. Contractors are Vanguard Construction and P.J. Kennedy. **Contractors will begin removing the existing VCT flooring on Friday, April 5. Once new flooring is installed, installation of wall tiles will be next. This project is expected to be complete by early May.**

Tiffany invited, once again, all COD members, friends and families to events during National Community Development Week, April 22-26. There will be a gallery of posters and quotes from all the programs the city funds with Community Development Block Grants, in City Hall and the celebration at the Newton Highlands Playground (10 Dedham St.) on Friday, April 26 from 4-7PM. This celebration will have a speaking program, with the Mayor and key funders, including Rob and Girard, refreshments and many activities, such as Zumba, Pickle Ball, a walking tour of the park’s history, and many more activities, a real collaborative effort with Planning, Parks & Recreation, Seniors, Historic Newton, and The Boys & Girls Club. The rain date is Tuesday, April 30, from 1-3PM. This is the park over by Route 9 with Dedham and Winchester Streets bordering the park, named the Joseph Lee Park.

4. Accessible (HP) Fines Reports (6:50-7:00)

Sgt. Lee gave the following reports of the fines issued to violators of the accessible parking regulations:

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

MARCH 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	22
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 4,600.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,300.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,100.00

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TOTAL OUTSTANDING \$ 2,200.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED 11
TOTAL VALUE \$ 2,300.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT \$ 1,100.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ 200.00
TOTAL DUE \$ 1,000.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED 11
TOTAL VALUE (11 @ \$200) \$ 2,300.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT \$ 200.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ 900.00
TOTAL DUE \$ 1,200.00

FISCAL YEAR 2019

As of April 1st, 2019

FY 2019 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED 341
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED \$69,500.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT \$25,030.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$34,420.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING \$11,985.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED 234
TOTAL VALUE \$47,700.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT \$23,620.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$19,530.00
TOTAL DUE \$5,895.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED 107
TOTAL VALUE \$21,800.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT \$1,410.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$14,890.00
TOTAL DUE \$6,090.00

5. Treasurer's Report (7:00-7:05)

Jane gave the following Treasurer's report:

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As of April 5, 2019, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed 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**

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

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**

6. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:05-7:15)

Jini gave the following ADA Coordinator's report:

Site Visits:

- Pleasant Street Municipal Parking Lot- reviewing placement of accessible parking spaces and proximity to CVS area
- Newton Highlands Playground- with Tiffany and Parks & Rec staff
- Peabody & Washington Streets- with Tiffany with Parks & Rec staff
- Austin St. and Walnut St.- with John Daghlian to review plans for Walnut St. Enhancements
- Accessible single-Use toilet room- with Rafik and Tiffany to locate best place for automatic door opener button
- Partners Urgent Care- to discuss accessible parking space on side closest to the front entrance/sidewalk

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- Carroll Center- Co-presented on Disclosure & Reasonable Accommodation in the Workplace
- NewCAL- every other week meeting
- Levingston Cove- - final plans for renovation
- Needham/Winchester Meeting with MassDOT Project Manager
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly- Save the Date for Fair Housing Training- April 25 from 6:30-8:30!
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend, every other week
- CODA- monthly meeting- on phone with other CODs and ADA Coordinators
- Austin St.- I attend this every other week meeting
- Development Review Team (DRTs)- several small and large housing complexes

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Jini mentioned all her site visits and talked about her participation on the NewCAL building project, which is the beginning planning for a new Senior Center/Community Center. Lucie asked what is over on Grove St. That is the Lower Falls Community Center and may not be large enough for the expanded programming desired. Many locations are being analyzed for consideration. There was a question on the Fair Housing Training for staff and decision makers in the city on the Fair Housing Act. All COD members are invited and should RSVP, and a good training if you are interested. Barbara asked for the materials in advance and if a clicker is needed, that it is modified. Jini said she is working on that, and will place a bump dot on a clicker for her, as well, as Jini is working directly with the presenter. Sandra asked if there will be a confirmation, once someone has RSVP'd. Tiffany thought so, but will check with the organizer, Kathy Laufer, chair of the Fair Housing Committee.

7. Accessible (HP) Parking Request-Newton Centre (7:15-7:40)

This is the second month discussing this accessible parking space request that Jini has applied for on behalf of people with disabilities who hold a valid disability parking placard. In the past month, Jini had a chance to check out whether the 4 accessible parking spaces exist in the Pleasant St. parking lot. They are closer to the Pelham St. part of this parking lot. She also mentioned that CVS has a few spaces directly behind the store, which are not required to have an accessible parking space according to AAB regulations. She also had a chance to measure the sidewalk alongside the CVS building on Pleasant St. This sidewalk measured 6 feet, and 8 feet is required for on-street accessible parking space to accommodate a ramp deployed from the passenger side of an accessible van. The location of the requested parking space has a wider sidewalk on Centre St., and also has a bump out that would provide for a rear ramp deployment, and will protect someone getting out of their car/van by vehicles turning right out of Pleasant St. There was much discussion, including Barbara's concern about the necessity for this accessible parking space, and Lucie's concern about the safety of someone getting out of the driver side close to moving vehicles on Centre St. There is only one on-street accessible parking space in all of the Newton Centre commercial area, on Union St., so often someone in an accessible van or car is parking on a busy street. Jini pointed out that the distance from a municipal parking lot can be quite long to some of the businesses and the pedestrian may also need to cross a busy street, if

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all that is available to a placard holder is in a municipal parking lot. Sgt. Lee agrees that an accessible parking space would work on Centre St. in front of CVS since the sidewalk seems too narrow on Pleasant St. Matt made a motion to support the accessible parking space request on Centre St. in front of CVS. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2-0 (Lucie and Barbara dissenting).

8. Planning for Gann Academy Presentation (7:40-8:00)

Lucie has organized the presentation by the Gann Academy students on the history of disability and 2 institutions in particular, the Fernald School and the Metropolitan State Hospital, and also about the people in the MetFern Cemetery. It will be at the DDS Metro Region Citizens Advisory Council meeting on Monday, April 29, at the Price Center in Newton from 7-9PM. Lakshmi, Eileen, and Jini are helping with the outreach to many Newton, and beyond, disability organizations. They would like the Newton COD co-sponsor this event, a very worthy and remarkable effort by these high school students, who are honoring the memory of the people buried at this cemetery with just a number and a letter, C for Catholic, and P for Protestant. They have received media attention and have been able to connect families of some of the people buried there from these 2 institutions. Jini and Lakshmi reported last month on a presentation by the Gann students at the Newton Historical Society and wanted to help them to present to more Newton residents and parents with children with disabilities in the area. There is no cost to be a co-sponsor, just to spread the word among members, family, and friends and to be listed on the invitation/flyer as a co-sponsor. Lucie mentioned that the Commissioner for the state's department of Developmental Disability Services (DDS) will be attending and introducing the students.

. Lucie made a motion to request that Newton COD be a co-sponsor of this valuable presentation. Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

9. Old/New Business (8:00-8:30)

Jini wanted to bring attention to a draft of a letter that Commissions on Disability are encouraged to send to the new Commissioner of the Division of Professional Licensure, who are interviewing for a new Executive Director for the Architectural Access Board. Jini only received the draft today, forwarded it on to everyone today, and made a couple of edits. The

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letter was read to the members. It appears that the DPL want to set up an interviewing committee, including 2 AAB members, but the state statute which established the AAB in 1968 states that the AAB members, alone, will interview and hire the Executive Director. The letter supports the position that the state statute should be followed. Girard added that all the Independent Living Centers have been involved, as well as the Disability Law Center, and the Disability Policy Consortium, encouraging the DPL to follow the state statute. Lucie suggested including the language of this statute in the body of the letter. Matt read the letter. Lucie made a motion to support and send this letter, including the actual state statute (Part I, Title II, Chapter 22, Section 13A) to the DPL Commissioner, and the Governor. The motion was seconded by Anne Marie. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0.

Dana wanted to let everyone know of the Mayor's Community Breakfast (formerly the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast), being held on Friday, May 31, at 7:30am, at the Marriott Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue. It is usually held at Boston College, but they had a conference already scheduled. Dana hopes some or all of the COD members could attend. An individual ticket is \$25. Jini mentioned that the COD has funds in the CAM account to cover either a table or individual tickets. The cost is a donation to the non-profit organization, The Foundation for Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Harmony. Since the May meeting is before this event, members can check their availability and decide at that meeting whether to use the CAM funds for the tickets.

Matt asked for an update on the proposed FY20 CDBG Access Projects. Tiffany said that all were presented to the Planning and Development Board in early April and were approved pending HUD allocation, which usually is sent out in May. Once the allocation is known, and after a 30-day comment period, the Mayor signs off on these and other CDBG projects. In the meantime Tiffany and Jini are working on the RRFB bid paperwork. Barbara asked if an RRFB could be used to cross the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. Jini said she knows they are used at mid-block street crossings and doesn't know if they can be used at a driveway. Jini said she could have the Transportation Division check it out for possible RRFBs installation, as well, and if not, what could alert vehicles leaving the west entrance of the Newton-Wellesley Hospital of pedestrians crossing this driveway. Also mentioned was the demolition of a ramp on this hospital's property from Washington St. to the Blue building that Barbara just told

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Jini about. Jini sent an email to ISD to find out what is going on there. The ISD Commissioner, John Lojek, is a great advocate for accessibility and he and his department will be able to find out if and when the ramp will be replaced.

10.Adjournment (8:30)

Before the meeting adjourned, at 8:40PM, Jini quickly mentioned all the events in the last week or so of April, Fair Housing Training on 4/25, CD celebration at Newton Highlands Playground, 4/26, and Gann Academy Presentation, 4/29.

**Respectfully prepared and submitted by
Jini Fairley
ADA Coordinator**

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 13, 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.