



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: October 10, 2018
Room 204
Time: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Barney Heath,
Director, Planning &
Development

Rachel Powers
Manager
Community Development

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Rosemary Larking
Barbara Lischinsky

Jason Rosenberg
Chairman Emeritus

Advisor

Sergeant Jay Babcock
Newton Police Department

Staff

ADA/Sec 504 Coordinator
Jini Fairley
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Commission Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Co-chair
Girard Plante, Co-chair
Jane Brown, Treasurer
Rosemary Larking, participating remotely
Anne Marie Killilea
Sandra Lingley
Matt Volpi
Lakshmi Kadambi

Commission Members Absent:

Lucie Chansky
Barbara Lischinsky

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
Sgt. Robert Lee, Police

Guests:

Warren Abramson

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

At the beginning of the meeting, members present were Rob Caruso, Jane Brown, Rosemary Larking (on the phone), Sandra Lingley, Anne Marie Killilea, and Matt Volpi. Girard Plante and Lakshmi Kadambi arrived after the meeting was underway.

2. Approval of September 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:45)

Rob asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and if there were any changes, deletions, additions to be made to the September Minutes. Hearing none, Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

3. CDBG Report (6:45-6:55)



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Both Tiffany and Rachel were at a conference and were not able to attend the meeting to give the CDBG report. The following was distributed to all COD members prior to the meeting:

CDBG Access Projects Report

FY17 Curb Cuts Funding Pool/FY16 Curb Cuts Funding Pool – (CD17-03A/CD16-03B Budget: \$108,500.92; Expended: \$97,405.67; Balance; \$9,822.33). The FY17/FY16 Curb Cut project was completed in conjunction with the COD and DPW/Engineering based on the recently completed inventory. DPW/Engineering sought to complete 30-40 curb cuts in the Carr School area by spring 2018. **Work is complete, and all discrepancies have been corrected. Staff is finalizing paperwork for close-out.**

Carroll Center Accessibility – (CD15-035 Budget: \$111,745.92; Expended: \$100,698.62; Balance: \$11,047.30). The Carroll Center Accessibility Project was approved by the Planning and Development Board January 11, 2017 and Funding and Owner/Contract Agreements executed on December 14, 2017. **Work is complete, and staff is finalizing paperwork for close-out.**

Highlands Playground Access – (CD15-032 Budget: \$123,750; Expended: \$117,562.50; Balance: \$6,187.50). Accessible pathways component began in spring 2017 with contractor David White & Son. **With recent rainfall, Parks & Rec has been having issues with the drainage at the site. Weston & Sampson is helping with this issue. The contractor is also working to repair the cracked concrete steps.**

Newton Corner Curb Cuts – (Project CD15-034 Budget: \$141,940; Expended: \$98,957.87; Balance: \$42,982.13). The project included the installation of 11 accessible curb cuts on Washington Street and around the Newton Corner Circle. The Highway Division completed several curb cuts in and around Park Street improvements during the previous fiscal year. A. R. Belli also completed improvements through an existing contract with the City. **Site visit was performed on 8/1/2018. At that visit, staff had concerns about a curb cut design located at Washington/Peabody, outside Corner Café, with a substantial drop from the sidewalk to the road. DPW will be installing large planters to protect pedestrians from falling off the edge of the ramp and to further beautify the corner. DPW will be coordinating with Parks & Rec.**

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FY18 APS – (CD18-03B Budget: \$17,457; Expended: \$16,918.50; Balance: \$538.50)

The COD voted to approve the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at the locations listed below. Site visit was performed on 8/6/2018. Several discrepancies have been identified. Independent of the APS project, DPW has determined that the signal controller needs to be replaced. The contractor will be installing the replacement controller by the end of the week, and by doing so, the contractor will also be installing a new signal post that will be installed in the grassy area at the back of the sidewalk. The electrical box will be moved to the new signal post and will not obstruct the sidewalk. Upon completion and review, staff will proceed with project close-out.

FY19 City Hall ADA Accessible Single Use Toilet Room- (CD19-03A Budget: \$127,862; Expended \$0; Balance: \$127,862) The COD voted to allocate FY19 architectural access funds to the installation of an ADA accessible toilet room on the first floor of City Hall. The project will be managed by the City of Newton Public Buildings Department. Contractor walkthrough took place on 9/20/2018, and bids were due 10/4/2018. Once a low-bidder is identified, the MOU can be finalized.

There were no questions to be forwarded to Tiffany.

4. Accessible (HP) Fines Reports (6:55-7:10)

When Sgt. Lee arrived, he gave the following reports:

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018
PARKING TICKET MONTHLY TOTALS

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

41

TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED (37 @ 200, 4 at 300)

\$ 8,600.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT

(4 @ 200, 4 at 300)

\$ 2,000.00

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

(4 @ 200)

\$ 800.00

TOTAL OUTSTANDING

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\$ 5,800

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

27

TOTAL VALUE

(23 @ 200) (4 @ 300)

\$ 5,800.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT (4 @ 200) (4 @ 300)

\$ 2,000.00

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

\$ 600.00

TOTAL DUE

\$ 3,200.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

14

TOTAL VALUE (14 @ 200)

\$2,800.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT

\$ 0

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

(1 @ 200)

\$ 200.00

TOTAL DUE

\$ 2,600.00

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019

As of October 1, 2018 (3 Months)

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

99

TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED

\$ 20,200.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT

\$ 3,605.00

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

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\$ 6,215.00

TOTAL OUTSTANDING

\$ 8,010.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBILITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

72

TOTAL VALUE

(68 @ 200) (4 @ 300)

\$ 14,800.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT

(16 @ 200)

\$ 6,400.00

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

\$ 3,605.00*

TOTAL DUE

\$ 5,210.00

(*a violator paid \$ 400.00 for a \$ 200.00 ticket)

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED

27

TOTAL VALUE

(27 @ 200)

\$ 5,400.00

REDUCTION AMOUNT

\$ 0

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

\$ 2,610.00

TOTAL DUE

\$ 2,800.00

5. Treasurer's Report (7:10-7:15)

Jane, COD Treasurer, gave the following Treasurer's report:

As of October 5, 2018, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since the September COD meeting 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)

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Balance: **\$59,883**

Account #14M1146-4710HP Revenue taken in during the year for Fines Collected

Balance: \$0

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: **\$160.97**

Account#C401083-586005 Set up to purchase and install Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) units at the Waverly/Tremont intersection

Type: Special Appropriations

Balance: \$6400.00

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

Type: Revolving Account

Balance: \$940.00

Account# 29B22001 Disability Commission Gift

Type: Gift/Donation Account

Balance: \$0.00

6. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:15-7:30)

Jini gave the following report of her ADA activities:

Site Visits:

- APS – Harvard & Newtonville
- Tree Pits on Watertown in Nonantum Village
- Corner of West St. at Watertown St.- curb cut
- Kennard Garden at Kennard Park
- Warren House sidewalk

Trainings:

- Webinar- Fair Housing Accessibility First- Site & Accessible Route

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- MOD Disability Summit
- Hering Loss Program at the Library
- Movie “Intelligent Lives” at Eliot Church
- Riverside DRT
- CIP- on Steering Committee
- Austin Street Housing - every other week meetings
- Fair Housing Committee- I attend this monthly

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- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- I attend, every other week
- CODA- monthly meeting

Lakshmi Kadambi, newest COD member, also attended the MOD Disability Summit and gave a wonderful synopsis of the many speakers at this event. Tiffany Leung, Community Development Planner in the city's Planning Department also attended, and provided wonderful notes to Lakshmi. There were speakers from MOD, the seminar's host, Partners Healthcare, from all the disability agencies, from the Ruderman Foundation, and from a New Hampshire University who has conducted studies and keeps statistics regarding employment of job seekers with disabilities. Employment of people with disabilities was the focus of these talks and were most impressive, but the disappointing fact is that there is a large gap between the percentage of workers with and without disabilities. Many job seekers with a disability are either unemployed or underemployed.

7. Housekeeping (7:30-8:00)

Rob and Girard expressed their concerns about some aspects of how the meetings are proceeding. As our Commission On Disability membership continues to grow, and often have members participating on the phone, it is important to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, which govern how the COD meeting is run. They reminded members that we should not talk over each other, and if a member has a question or comment regarding a report or presentation that was given, the Chair or Co-chair should recognize each person by name who indicates they have a question or make a comment, by either raising their hand or addressing the Chair/Co-chair by voice. This not only helps the member who is participating via the phone, but it is also helpful for the recording of the meeting and for preparation of the minutes of the meeting.

When a vote is taken, a roll call should take place, that is the chair/co-chair calls on each member by name and ask for their vote, not only for the benefit of the person on the phone, but for the members who are visually impaired who won't be able to see a hand raised, and, again, for the accuracy of the minutes.

Another concern Rob and Girard mentioned was the length of the meetings, especially lately, they have ended after 9PM, when they should be ending at 8:30PM. The Co-chairs reminded everyone that the meeting will start

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promptly, on time, at 6:30, so please arrive earlier than that to get settled, that is most helpful, with conversations ending by the start of the meeting. If a member is participating by phone, he/she should dial in by 6:25PM. The aim is to be adjourning the meeting by 8:30PM. To this end, the Co-chairs will keep the number of agenda items to be reasonable within that time frame, and, if necessary, will postpone or schedule an agenda item for the next monthly meeting, rather than have too many items to cover in one meeting.

It was suggested that perhaps the Co-chairs could monitor the time spent on each agenda item so that they can interrupt, if necessary, and wrap up the discussion, in order to move on to the next item on the agenda.

If at all possible, the Co-chairs would prefer to have the business/reports at the beginning of the meeting, with guests and presentations to follow. Jini mentioned that she often passes to give her report at the end of the guests' agenda items because

She doesn't like to see staff and public wait so long for their turn. Rob said that the later time, like 7:15 or 7:30 or later is often convenient for the public so that they can have dinner then come to the meeting. Jini didn't agree with him, especially when city staff from other departments giving presentations are on the agenda, as they have not yet gone home for dinner.

All agreed that a meeting run in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order should ensure future COD meetings will run more efficiently, more timely, and adjourn on or before 8:30PM, in order for those with scheduled transportation rides will not miss any of the meeting.

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

Jini made a couple of announcements of meetings coming up later this month. The Community Access Monitor Training, in Natick, is next week and several city staff and COD members are planning on attending this 2-day program. She also reminded the members of the film series Nathan has organized, the next one is the movie, "Wonder" screening at the Eliot Church on Tuesday, October 23, at 6:30PM. The next evening, October 24, the city's Planning Department and consultants are presenting visioning options for the future of segments of the Washington Street corridor, at the Newton North High School cafeteria, from 6-8:30PM..

8. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at about 9PM.

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NEXT MEETING DATE: November 14, 2018 (Note this is the second Wednesday due to the Veterans Day holiday)

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons 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.