



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

Meeting date: October 16, 2017
Room 204
Time: 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Setti D. Warren
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
Lucie Chansky
Barbara Lischinsky
Rosemary Larking, participating remotely

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
Sgt. John J. Babcock, Police
Amanda Lipson, Planning

Guests:

Sandra Lingley
Anne Marie Killilea
Representatives from the Dearborn Academy

1. Introductions (6:30-6:35)
2. Approval of September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes (6:35-6:40)

After introductions were made, Rob asked if there were any changes/deletions/additions to the minutes as read and distributed. Hearing none, Rosemary made a motion to accept the minutes as read and distributed. Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0 -1, with Lucie abstaining since she was absent last month.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Rob spoke about the timeliness of the minutes, stating that they are due 5 business days before the next meeting, according to the Mission Statement of the Commission, stating often the minutes are not sent out by then. Rob said that members who use screen readers or have other disabilities, such as cognitive, need to receive the minutes more than 3-4 days before the meeting. Girard and Barbara added



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similar comments, saying that they need to read them the prior week. Jini stated that she tries to get them done earlier but often she cannot find enough time to listen to the 2 ½ hour recording and stop it often to complete the minutes. She said she has always gotten them out no later than the Friday before the meeting, but for some members that is not early enough. Girard said that he and Rob want to know whenever Jini doesn't think she can complete the minutes the week before, to let them know and they will look for someone to do them. They asked if there was a secretarial pool at City Hall, and Jini said no. Jini said that a member should be elected as the Secretary, as many Commissions on Disability have done, who creates and submits the minutes. Jini also mentioned that recently, an amendment/change to the Open Meeting Law defines what it meant by creating and approving the minutes of open meetings in a timely manner. According to the law, timely means to have the minutes created and approved by the third subsequent meeting, and since the COD meets monthly, that would be 90 days after an open meeting, although the law recommends approving the minutes by the next meeting, which we always do. Rob also pointed out that the agenda and minutes are not posted on our webpage. Jini said that the way to upload documents to the website is not yet accessible with her screen reader. She will try again to work with someone in IT to assist her in putting those documents on the webpage.

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

Amanda gave the CDBG Access Report that was distributed in advance of this meeting. Updates to the ongoing projects: 2 more locations for curb cuts were completed, 51 Thaxter at Nevada St. and 246 Linwood at Broadway (55 Broadway); 42 APS units were installed in 2017 and that project is closed out; Newton Corner Curb Cuts are underway, work mostly being done at night. Although the city has not yet received the funds for FY18, 3 funding pools have been identified: FY18 Curb Cuts Budgeted \$30,380, FY18 APS Budgeted \$17,360, and Park Pathways Budgeted \$39,060. Barbara asked about the APS to be installed at Beacon & Washington St. Jini said that was one of the intersections to be funded by the FY18 CDBG funds, which the city has not received yet. Once that happens, Amanda & Rachel will proceed with the Environmental Review, the MOU with DPW and bid out if necessary so that the installation can take place. Barbara mentioned that she has put in 2 311 requests to raise the volume on the Locator tone at Beacon & Manitoba, at the schoolside

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driveway. She feels an additional pedestrian pushbutton pole with the APS pushbutton should be placed closer to the sidewalk and crosswalk, as the sidewalk splits there and one needs to know to turn towards the crosswalk. The response she received was that the volume and the location of the pushbutton are within the range of the regulations (MUTCD). Barbara disagrees and would like to meet out there to explain that the pushbutton is too far away to hear when needing to cross there with even a moderate amount of traffic. Jini was aware of the Traffic Engineer's effort, recently increasing the ambient ceiling, and it could technically be within the right range, but some configurations don't work with those guidelines. Barbara suggested that she and Jini meet out there again before the snow flies. Even though her guide dog can find the pushbutton as she has been trained to do that, the locator tones is to alert other blind or visually-impaired pedestrians of the presence of a signalized intersection with APS.

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

Sargent Babcock presented the HP Fines Report for the month of September and Year-to-Date that was distributed in advance of this meeting.

September totals:

Fines for violators parking in an accessible parking space without a disability placard or plate: Paid/Collected = \$1500, Outstanding = \$5100, Total = \$6600.

Fines for blocking curb cuts: Paid = \$ 200, Outstanding = \$ 2300, Total = \$2500.

Combined Totals: Paid = \$1700, Outstanding = \$ 7400, Total Fines Issued = \$9100.

The totals for the first 3 months of the city's fiscal year are as follows:

Fines issued for violators parking in an accessible parking space without a disability placard or plate: Paid = \$5900, Outstanding = \$7000, Total = \$12,900.

Fines issued for violators blocking curb cuts: Paid = \$2400, Outstanding = \$3700, Total = \$6100.

, Combined Totals: Paid = \$8300, Outstanding = \$10,700, Total Fines Issued = \$19,000.

Total dismissed on appeal: (\$6200).

5. Treasurer's Report (7:00-7:10)

Jane gave the Treasurer's Report. There were no changes since September's report.

Jini mentioned that the revenue from the Fines for the 2017 fiscal year is still being figured out, especially the revenue from Operation Access. She

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recommends that we consider conducting another Holiday Operation Access, which is from Friday after Thanksgiving until the day after Christmas, and not continue it during the spring as was done last year. She also recommended voting on moving \$7,000 into the Operation Access account, which currently has \$460.62, soon, since Maureen has to docket and this transfer/appropriation must be approved by the Mayor and the City Council. This should happen before the first bill arrives from the Police Department to pay the overtime shifts of the officers.

Rosemary made a motion to spend \$7000 of the funds in the HP Fines account for holiday Operation Access, these funds would be transferred into the Operation Access account. Lucie seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

Lucie brought up the topic of whether the COD would want to subsidize the registration fee for the Ruderman Foundation Inclusion Summit, to be held at the Seaport convention Center on November 19-20. The COD decided to co-sponsor this event when we had a Jasmine come speak at an earlier meeting. Jini mentioned that it was on her Old/New Business item for the last and current meeting, before we lose a quorum. Lucie, Barbara, and Girard expressed interest in attending this conference. Jini said she is hoping to attend as well. A motion was made by Lucie to spend up to \$525 from the Community Access Monitoring Program (CAM) account to pay the registration fee (either \$50 (students/people with disabilities with financial need) or \$175 per registrant). Rosemary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

6. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:10-7:20)

Jini asked if there were any questions on her report that was distributed in advance. Hearing none, the chair moved on to the next agenda item.

7. MAAB Variance-Dearborn Academy (7:20-7:50)

The contractor and the architect for the Dearborn Academy explained the reason they are asking for a variance to putting in an elevator, which is costly and would have to be installed on the outside of the school building. The elevator would have cost approximately \$377,000 and the continuous chair lift/platform lift which travels on a track up and down the stairs, that they are proposing will cost approximately \$71,000. There were questions about the layout of the school building and how the lift would serve the 3 floors. There is an accessible walkway on the side of the building to enter the building at the first floor level. The

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contractor, Ken, said they did a lot of other accessibility features, including 8 accessible toilet rooms. This school is primarily for middle and high school students and focused on vocational and life skill programs. A motion was made by Lucie to support the variance requested to use the Garaventa stair platform lift instead of an elevator, due to its high cost. The motion was seconded by Barbara. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

8. Accessible Parking-Waban Square P.O. (7:50-8:00)

Jini had submitted the application to request an accessible parking space out front of Waban Post Office, on behalf of Waban residents with disabilities. Lucie mentioned that there was an accessible parking space in front of or just a store away from the Post Office many years ago. There was some discussion that someone with a placard or plate who is a commuter will park there all day. Right now, there are no parking meters in Waban Square, but there is a 2 hour limit in front of the Post Office. Sargent Babcock said it is hard to enforce a 15 minute time limit, which works out to close to 30 minutes in reality. Lucie made a motion to recommend to the Traffic Council to either make that parking space a short term (15 minute) parking space or have it become an accessible parking space so that people with disabilities can get to the Post Office. Jane seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0.

9. Applicant for Commission On Disability (8:00-8:15)

Rob asked Anne Marie Killilea to introduce herself to the members and tell a little about herself and why she would like to become a Commission member. Anne Marie is a nurse and working on her Doctor of Education. When she lost her hearing due to a serious infection in 2000, she found it difficult to continue to practice her profession so she turned to teaching. Over the next few years she also received Cochlea Implants which has allowed her to hear much better. As a Late-Deafened Adult, she has advocated for hearing impaired individuals, especially in her profession. She gives in-service training to hospital staff as to how to communicate with late-deafened adults. She writes a column in the Association for the Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) newsletter. She is semi-retired and has the time and energy to give back to the community and in particular to continue her advocacy with membership on the Commission On Disability to make Newton a better place for hard of hearing individuals. Rosemary made a motion to nominate Anne Marie for membership on the Commission On

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Disability. Lucie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0. Rob, Lucie and others expressed that they were impressed with her background, credentials, and passion in helping students and patients who are hearing impaired, and welcomed her onto the Commission.

10. Self-Evaluation/Accessibility Meeting (8:15-8:20)

Jini announced that she will be presenting the Self-Evaluation of the accessibility of the city's infrastructure as part of her updating the ADA/Section 504 Transition Plan. The meeting, co-sponsored by the COD, is Thursday, November 16, at the Senior Center from 6:30-8:30. She has advertised in the Senior Center newsletter and other city department newsletters and will reach out to organizations that serve people with disabilities.

11. Old/New Business (8:20-8:30)

Rosemary said that she had an issue with the second set of doors at the West Newton Post Office. There is an automatic door opener for the outside/first door, but the second door is very difficult to open and she wondered if they need to install an automatic door opener for that interior door. Jini had tried calling that Post Office but it just rang and rang. Sandra offered to go over there and speak in person with the manager/supervisor to see what can be done.

12. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting adjourned at 9 10PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 13, 2017

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.