

Ruthanne Fuller Mavor

Barney Heath, **Director**, Planning & Development

Amanda Berman **Director, Housing & Community Development**

Nika Sandal Planner **Community Development**

Members

Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair Jane Brown. Treasurer Warren Abramson Rob Caruso Lucie Chansky Lakshmi Kadambi, Co-Chair Nancy Kritzman Darby Leigh Sandra Lingley Barbara Lischinsky **Girard Plante** Matt Volpi

> Jason Rosenberg **Chairman Emeritus**

Advisor

Sergeant Michael B. Wade **Newton Police Department**

Staff

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

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CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS Commission On Disability

Meeting Date: February 14, 2022 **MINUTES Room Zoom** Time: 6:00PM * New Start Time This meeting will be a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/IPad: Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84610100556?pwd=L2FuS2Rsemt1UDINeGIHOEpndnJ6QT09 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:** Anne Marie Killilea, Co-Chair, remotely on Zoom Eileen Sandberg, Co-Chair, remotely on Zoom Jane Brown, Treasurer, remotely on Zoom Rob Caruso, remotely on Zoom Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom Nancy Kritzman, remotely on Zoom Darby Leigh, remotely on Zoom Sandra Lingley, remotely on Zoom Girard Plante, remotely on Zoom Matt Volpi, remotely on Zoom **Commission Members Absent:**

Barbara Lischinsky Lakshmi Kadambi Warren Abramson

City Staff and Advisors Present: Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator Sgt. Mike Wade, Police Hattie Kerwin Derrick, Mayor's Office

Guests: Petra Chovanek Ima Jonsdottir Councilor Bowman Councilor Downs Lucia Dolan

Alyssa Moskos Haggerty Peter Bruce Peter Harrington

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

The meeting began at 6:02PM. At the time of introductions, 9 members were present and 4 were absent (Lucie (joined shortly after), Lakshmi, Barbara, and Warren). Anne Marie read the meeting rules.

2. Approval of the January 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes (6:05-6:10)

Eileen asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes for the January 10, 2022 meeting. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Jane made this motion, Darby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.

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

In Nika's absence, Anne Marie read the February CDBG Access Projects Report, which can be viewed on page 8.

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

Sgt. Wade gave the Fines reports, the first for the violations/tickets issued in January, and the second report with totals for the 2022 fiscal year (8 months). These reports can be viewed on pages 9 & 10.

5. Discussion of COD Goals for 2022 (6:20-7:00)

Eileen shared her screen with the document emailed in advance to the members of the 2020 and 2021 goals, some are completed, some are still on the 'front burner' and new goals to be added with tonight's discussion. This Goals document can be viewed on page 11. Eileen pointed out that some of these goals from 2020 were not accomplished, mainly due to Covid, such as an accessible/adaptable sport activity, possibly on the Charles River, with AccesSportAmerica. There were other resources and ideas for this goal, potentially this summer/fall. Members were interested in another presentation, either from AccesSportAmerica or possibly Outdoor Adventures or . Lucia Dolan suggested arranging for adaptive bikes/trikes along with Bike Newton event this year, maybe on Father's Day. Nancy offered to help coordinate with Lucia Dolan and Bike Newton to arrange for an organization to bring adaptive/accessible bikes for the Bike Newton event. Another goal that is ongoing is a robust database, for publicity of events, for receiving agendas, etc. Lucie and Lakshmi have greatly contributed to the database, along with emails of individuals who have attended several COD Events held in the last 2 years, and Jini would like some technical help as well as members sending both organizations and individuals interested in the COD. Suggestions for organizations who may be statewide but serve adults and children in Newton by our guest, Peter Bruce, and Eileen (children with disabilities) j. Another goal, having a film showing highlighting disability, such as Matt's suggestion "Feeling Through", if members are interested in an event. Anne Marie mentioned that September is Deaf Awareness Month, so perhaps that film might be a one to show, it is very short, about 17 minutes. 3 Subcommittees have been formed and Anne Marie is working on getting her training regarding how to

talk to patients with hearing loss by medical professionals at NWH. Jane said that in her research, she feels that the city is doing a good job with emergency procedures. Lucie thinks that the COD needs to work with the Council regarding affordable and accessible housing, that more apartments are affordable with those with incomes under 30% AMI. Sandra commented that she saw mistakes at Trio in their accessible apartments and that the higher AMI (80-120%AMI) are just not affordable and those apartments were not yet rented. Lucie also suggested that the Council should be made aware that the city needs to hire an accessibility expert to inspect the apartments that are more fully accessible, which are quite a few in the larger complexes coming soon. Another suggestion is to allow detached accessory apartments by right, with the Council. Nancy commented that it is the responsibility to educate Newton residents to realize that at some point in their lives, even if not now, that accessible features will be needed, whether it is in housing, transportation, sidewalks, public buildings, and to assist current and future residents with disabilities, to put aside the self-centeredness and to think and provide for others. Jini suggested everyone interested in affordable and accessible housing to follow and attend any meetings where the plans for the West Newton Armory renovation takes place. She also commented that she is working internally and advocating for a housing accessibility expert to assist our building inspectors or incorporate an accessibility consultant to be hired by developers of very large projects who report to ISD. At some point, advocacy and support of the COD will be necessary to have the Council or responsible city departments make this a reality. Girard commented that much progress has been made in the state legislature budget for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), this is for people with disabilities under 60, and he also mentioned that the Newton Housing Authority's new building planned, Haywood House, will have quite a few apartments that are subsidized (may be age restricted only for tenants 60 or 62 and above). Since time ran out, Eileen suggested tabling but continuing further discussion, especially for new goals, for the next COD meeting.

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

Since Jane, Treasurer, said there were no changes since last month. Eileen asked if she would read it. She did not have it in front of her, so Eileen asked to read it, which she did. This report can be found on page 14.

Taken out of order:

7. Support Letter for NewCAL New Construction

This item was #10 but was moved up by the Co-Chairs. Jini asked the Co-Chairs to put this item on the agenda as she gave some background to new developments regarding the proposed new Senior Center, NewCAL. Although new construction was the option chosen, almost a year ago, by the community, the Mayor, and many stake holders, including the COD, there is a group of residents requesting that the existing building be 'Landmarked', which, if designated as so by the Newton Historic Commission, would prevent new construction, and to preserve the façade of the building. The overwhelming majority of the public favored new construction so that the new Senior Center would be fully accessible (needing no variances), barrier-free, welcoming, with no compromises to

the program needs, and a much better parking situation, not only for our current senior residents but for 100 years into the future. The Add/Reno was rejected by the Council On Aging and the COD, and many more stakeholders because the inaccessible entrance and several other floors within the existing building cannot be renovated to accommodate the needs of older adults and Newton residents with disabilities. If attempted, the facade facing Walnut St. would need an outside 92 foot ramp (approximately) in order for everyone to enter the building at the existing set of stairs at the Walnut Street main entrance. Once in the building another almost 3 feet in height must be negotiated, which would require either an elevator or a lift. Within the building there are several mezzanine levels that are, at present, inaccessible, and would also need lifts or ramps. If the front facade and front entrance was not made accessible, that entrance would need to be closed to the public and a new, at grade, entrance would need to be constructed. Providing an interior ramp to mitigate nearly 9 feet, and/or an elevator would not be a welcoming entrance and would impact the useable space on the 'main' floor, almost 9 feet above grade. It is possible that any addition off the back would also negatively impact the parking. There was much discussion among the COD members and 2 members of the public. Some want this building built somewhere else in Newton, others want to preserve the existing Senior Center and feel the Add/Reno would be accessible enough, and the majority want to see a new building with all the amenities and accessibility everyone can enjoy and be welcomed. Eileen thanked everyone for a civil, albeit long, discussion with strong opinions on both sides of this contentious issue, a motion was put forth by Matt and seconded by Jane, to provide a support letter for a newly constructed NewCAL on the current Senior Center site, to be sent by the COD to the Newton Historic Commission before their March 24 meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2(Rob, Girard) - 1 (Lucie). The decision as to whether to nominate to Landmark the existing Senior Center/1938 former Newtonville Library will be on the agenda at the NHC's March 24 meeting. There is time for the content of the letter to be reviewed by the COD members at next month's COD meeting. Nancy and Anne Marie offered to work with Jini on a draft of this support letter.

8. Uses for the Fines Funds (7:05-7:25)

Eileen said that the COD has almost \$60,000 funds in the Fines account to be expended for the benefit of people with disabilities. Jini and Stephanie Lapham met with Alyssa Moskos Haggerty (present at this meeting) and other Burr School PTO members at the playground to determine what was needed to make this playground even more accessible. Jini had sent the proposal to the COD members from Alyssa and the Burr Elementary School PTO requesting funds to purchase additional accessible 'GrassMats' to make a new section of their playground more accessible over wood chips, in order to install an accessible picnic table they have already purchased, and to purchase an accessible swing. The COD can decide to grant this request, or set up a small grant program to help all 15 elementary schools. Jini and Stephanie Lapham The total cost of these items is approximately \$3,074 and they are requesting half of that and will match by raising PTO funds. Ima, a COD member applicant, spoke in support of this request, as there were several improvements that could always be made at the elementary school that her son attended, to make the playground more wheelchair

accessible for him. She wished that the parents were consulted and the OTs and the PTs counselors as to what to provide in the playground. She suggested that a chess table would be also a great idea for children.

Girard proposed another use of the Fines funds, to purchase an RRFB for the CDBG project recommended by the COD last month at Langley, Warren, and Chase intersection.

Lucie made a motion to purchase and install an RRFB (cost approximately \$15,000-20,000)to complete the CDBG project at Langley/Chase/Warren intersection. Rob seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-1 (Sandra abstained).

Jane made a motion to set up a small grant program for the elementary schools to apply to purchase accessible equipment. No one seconded the motion. Eileen asked if perhaps members were interested in funding just this one proposal right now. Jane dropped her original motion and made a new motion to fund \$1500 to the Burr School PTO to purchase and install accessible mats and an accessible swing for their playground. Darby asked to amend the motion to fund exactly what the Burr School requested, which was 1537 (half of the estimated cost of this equipment). Jane agreed to the amendment, so that the motion was to recommend the use of \$1537 of the Fines Funds to grant the request from the Burr School PTO to purchase accessible mats and an accessible swing for their playground. Darby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0. Lucie commented that she would like to discuss why we would have to give equal amount of funds to the elementary schools, why would that be. Eileen said that the schools have an equitable policy and that COD can discuss this further at an upcoming meeting, when we discuss using more of the Fines funds.

9. ADA Coordinator's Report (7:25-7:30)

In the interest of time, Jini only mentioned that she will be at the Traffic Council meeting in February to propose an additional van-accessible parking space be added to the Newton Centre parking lot. Her full report can be viewed on page 15. She welcomed members to join her there. Rob asked about the Legal webinar she attended. She said it was very interesting and some of the cases are not even yet decided. She would be happy to either send the link to the archive of this one, 2021 ADA legal cases and/or the website where you can sign up for many of the webinars that she attends, virtually.

10. Hosting Community Access Monitoring (CAM) Training(7:30-7:40)

Jini explained about the Community Access Monitor Program, presented by the Mass Office on Disability (MOD) open to COD members and applicants, city employees, and the general public interested in learning more about the ADA and the Mass Architectural Access Board , which are the accessibility laws governing buildings, parking lots and accessible routes, to mention a few areas. Some of the COD members have taken this 2-day training, 5 hours each day, and have received a certificate. Now that MOD has prepared this training in a virtual format, (the Newton COD hosted an in-person version in 2015, Jini reached out to see if they needed a COD to host this CAM training. Jeff Dougan was happy to hear that we might be interested and the dates proposed are in June, either June 8, 9, or 15. The training can be 2 days, back to back, or have a bout a week between the trainings. Jini wanted to know if the Newton COD

would like to host this training and if so, which dates they prefer. The time each day would either be 9-2 or 10-3, with a lunch break and one or 2 smaller breaks. Members voiced preferences for back to back and for having the training days a week apart. Lucie made a motion to host the MOD's CAM training in June, a week apart. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 10-0. Since there was no preference for either Wed. June 8 or Thursday, June 9, Jini will leave it up to MOD's trainer schedule. Jini will keep you posted on the final dates and time and asked for any members interested to let her know by email and send her all contact information.

- 11. Subcommittee Updates (8:00-8:20)
 - a) "Spotlight on Mental Health"- Eileen said that the MH committee met in January and discussing possible events/programs for this year. She is looking for a new Chair of this subcommittee now that she has taken on the COD Co-Chair position. Next meeting is on Feb. 23 (4th Wednesday) at 1:30PM.
 - b) "Funding for the Benefit of People with Disabilities"- First meeting took place on Jan. 31. Members include Lucie, Nancy, Anne Marie, Eileen, and Rob, who was elected Chair of this subcommittee. They are discussing projects for ARPA funding and beyond. The next meeting is Feb. 28 at 3:30PM.
 - c) "Newton Wellesley Hospital- Sandra, Chair, reported that their next quarterly meeting is on March 3 at 4PM. Still on the agenda will be the West entrance driveway as the paint and post project has not proven to be effective, especially in the winter when the posts are in the way of snowplows. They will also discuss how to advocate for more accessible offices of the leased private practice offices and several 'condo' offices.
- 12. Co-Chairs January 6 Meeting with Mayor Fuller (8:20-8:30)

Anne Marie updated the members on hers and Lakshmi's meeting with the Mayor on January 6. The Mayor is very pleased by all that has been accomplished in 2021 and encouraged them to recruit more youth members for the COD, either just finished high school or college. She also encouraged the COD get more involved in affordable housing. Lucie suggested that one or both of the Co-Chairs give a presentation about the COD to the SEPAC as to looking for either parents with young children with disabilities or to recommend their children with disabilities who are leaving the Newton Public Schools, to check out and maybe join the COD.

13. Adjournment (8:30) The meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 14, 2022

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: <u>jfairley@newtonma.gov</u> or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.

Reports and other Supplemental Materials:

February 2022 CDBG Project Report.pdf Newton Commission on Disability **CDBG Access Projects Report** February 14th, 2022 FY21 Curb Cuts - (CD21-03C; Budget: \$84,043.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$84,043.00) Installation of curb cuts at the following intersections: Watertown Street/West Street and Watertown Street/Edinboro Street. All construction has been completed and all backup documentation has been gathered from the Contractor, we are waiting on signed invoices before close-out. Phase I Marty Sender Pathway Installation – (CD21-03A; Budget: \$66,847.00; Expended: \$0; Balance: \$66,847.00) Reconstruction of the Marty Sender Path with an accessible route, covering approximately ¹/₄ mile of the route. Planning staff met with PRC staff and Jini to discuss a potential timeline. Contract is being circulated for signatures. A pre-construction meeting will be held once contract has been signed by the Mayor and fully executed. 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. Planning staff met with PRC staff and Jini to discuss a potential timeline. PRC is negotiating a contract with the design architect. FY23 Langley/Warren/Chase Crossing -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. Planning staff is beginning to collect demographic information at this location for the FY23 Annual Action

Plan.

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

February 2022

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	15
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 3,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 1,000.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBLITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	14
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 2,800.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 1,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 800.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED TOTAL VALUE REDUCTION AMOUNT TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TOTAL DUE 1 \$ 200.00 \$ 000.00 \$ 000.00 \$ 200.00

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

PARKING TICKET AND FINES REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022

As of January 31st, 2022

FY 2022 Year-to-date Parking Ticket Totals

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	86
TOTAL VALUE OF TICKETS ISSUED	\$ 17,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 4,400.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 9,600.00
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 3,200.00

CODE # 26 ACCESSIBLITY SPOTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	56
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 11,200.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 2,800.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 6,200.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 2,200.00

CODE # 27 CURB CUTS

NUMBER OF TICKETS ISSUED	30
TOTAL VALUE	\$ 6,000.00
REDUCTION AMOUNT	\$ 1,600.00
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID	\$ 3,400.00
TOTAL DUE	\$ 1,000.00

Notes on Goals discussed by the Commission On Disability members in the March 2021 meeting and to be continued in April 2021 meeting.

In progress

- Engaging and promoting Accessible sports events including water sports on Charles River, and adaptive biking, both 3 wheeled bikes and tandem bikes, maybe something in the fall perhaps with a non-profit who has the equipment and the trained volunteers.
- Goal to continue is to develop a robust database of disability organizations in Newton and the surrounding area and begin to collect email addresses of Newton residents interested in the COD and its activities.
- Watching short Disability film together to determine whether we can show it to public as an event. Matt mentioned watching the movie "Feeling through" about a deaf blind person.
- NWH Subcommittee formed in November 2020. Working with Newton Wellesley Hospital to resolve Accessibility and training issues with Hospital and staff.
- Mental Health Sub committee formed in February 2021 to educate, advocate and spread awareness on MH in the community
- Educating and Informing citizens and hospital workers on Late Deafened People

Commission On Disability goals set in the March 2020 Special meeting

- Continue to work on Emergency Preparedness information and advocacy for • people with disabilities.
- Being involved and working on accessible and affordable housing needs for people with disabilities
- Continue to identify sidewalks and curb cuts that need repair or replacement ٠ throughout the city of Newton

- Advocating for accessibility projects by the MBTA at Newton stations. Stress need for ramps vs stairs in new constructions apart from elevators.
- Promoting health and wellness of people with disability through adaptive recreational activities. Example: Adaptive recreation on the Charles
- Collaborate more with other commissions and boards such as Fair Housing and Human Rights especially for events.
- Arrange for a Table to be staffed by COD members at Fall Harvest Fair along with HRC and Fair Housing Committee to distribute COD brochures and pamphlets, (and possible giveaway item?).
- Bring employment information session or job fair for people with disabilities to • the city
- Advocating for the rights of the people with disabilities especially in regards to ٠ Personal Care Attendants.
- Improve Media outreach, including developing a newsletter, Podcasts, articles in TAB, New TV.
- Collecting addresses and emails and starting a data base for COD •
- **COD** Web page and Facebook page enhancements •
- Outreach to ask public what they would like the commission to do for them
- Informing the schools about the Newton COD so as to interest youth in joining • the commission activities as volunteers.
- Supporting scholarships to summer camps ٠
- Supporting members attending workshops and seminars •

Goals set in the March 2020 meeting that we have accomplished:

- **COD Brochure**
- **Information sheet Service Dogs Pamphlet**
- Mayors Commemoration for 30th anniversary of ADA •
- Events for 30th Anniversary of the ADA in 2020 ADA Jeopardy and Chalk Art

- Facebook page
- COD member joins Quarterly meetings with Mayor and Co- chairs
- Brought Non Profits and Organizations working in the field of Disabilities to present

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jane Brown, Treasurer of the Newton Commission On Disability (COD) Presented at the February 14, 2022 Newton COD Meeting As of January 31, 2022, the balances of the COD accounts have not changed since December 31, 2021, 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: \$58036.60

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: \$1880.89

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: \$29**0.00**

ADA COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Given by Jini Fairley, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

February 14, 2022, Newton Commission On Disability meeting for the month of Presented at the January.

Site Visits:

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None

Trainings:

- ADA Webinar: Ask an ADA Professional on Service Animals
- Webinar: Top ADA Legal Cases in 2021- excellent _
- Webinar on Audio Description _

Meeting/Events/Conference Calls:

- MLK Day Virtual Celebration
- Mayor's Meeting with Co-Chairs •
- Trails Committee of OSRP Implementation Meeting •
- Traffic Council Meeting-AP6-21-432 Lowell Ave. •
- 2 Subcommittee Meetings-MH and Funding •
- PRC Community Meetings-Forte & Braceland & Gath Pool Renovation •
- West Newton Armory Add/Reno –"Meet the Developers" Community Meeting •
- DRT- Walker Center and 150 Jackson/new Lincoln-Eliot School •
- Northland Working Group Meetings-as needed •
- NewCAL-Attend bi-weekly Working Group meetings ٠
- COA- NewCAL on agenda •
- Fair Housing Committee- attend monthly meetings •
- West Newton Streetscape- attend monthly meeting •
- Complete Streets Committee & Road Paving- attend bi-weekly meetings •
- Commissions On Disability Alliance Monthly Meeting ٠