



# CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## Commission On Disability

**Meeting Date: March 29, 2022**

### MINUTES

#### Room Zoom

**Time: 3:30PM**

**This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:  
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#### “Funding for the Benefit of People with Disabilities” Subcommittee

#### Subcommittee Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Chair, remotely on Zoom

Lucie Chansky, remotely on Zoom

Nancy Kritzman, remotely on Zoom

Eileen Sandberg, remotely on Zoom

#### Subcommittee Members Absent:

Anne Marie Killilea

#### City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/504 Coordinator

#### Guest:

Councilor Bowman

Councilor Downs

Girard Plante

### 1. Introductions (3:30-3:35)

Meeting started at 3:35pm with introductions.

### 2. Approval of February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes (3:35-3:40)

Rob asked if minutes were read and if there were any changes or comment. No comments. Lucie made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Nancy seconded the motion. Rob asked all in favor say yes, four yes, no no's. Motion passed unanimously.

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

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

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  
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### 3. ARPA Funding Request (3:40-3:55)

Rob asked Jini if she had heard if there was any news regarding the ARPA funding request and Jini replied that she heard that the mayor received the report. Eileen said that the Co-Chairs received acknowledgement that the mayor did receive it.

### 4. Mission Statement (3:55-4:10)

A compilation of all present. Rob said this is the Funding Subcommittee for the Benefit of People with all Disabilities. This includes people with mobility, vision and hearing loss along with barrier removal as well as people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and mental health issues. This also includes accessibility to programs and services essential to all people with all disabilities. This subcommittee's aim is to locate adequate sources of funding local, state, federal and private to make Newton more accessible, livable and welcoming to people with all disabilities. It is imperative that funding be allocated on a timely basis because safety and other factors are usually a necessary component for people with disabilities. According to the latest statistics from Massachusetts Easter Seals 1 in 4 people or 25% of the population have a disability. As our population ages, living longer will only increase these numbers.

### 5. New/Existing Programs/Services for People with Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities (IDD) and Mental Health Disabilities (4:10-4:30)

Lucie wanted to clarify that all mental health issues should not be lumped together. IDD is Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities. She said that funding for people with IDD is severely lacking. Councilor Bowman said she was greatly concerned with accessible/affordable units at Northland's new project on Needham Street. Lucy said that she wanted to see a new program using 30% of AMI because people with IDD and mental health difficulties are under employed or not employed.

### 6. Discussion for Other Projects (4:30-4:50)

Discussion ensued about housing voucher programs. Girard talked about the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) and how that was used for people leaving nursing and rehab facilities. It is funded by the state of Massachusetts. Jini talked about the Section 8 Voucher Program and how difficult it is to get one. The other programs include Newton Housing Authority (NHA), the Newton Community Development Foundation (NCDF), CAN-DO, and Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Housing Fund.

### 7. Next Meeting Date/Time (4:50-4:59)

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:30PM was decided for the next meeting.

### 8. Adjournment (4:59-5:00)

**The meeting adjourned at 4:59PM.**

## **NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 25, 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: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto: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.