



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission On Disability

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Date: May 16, 2022

Room Zoom

Time: 3:30PM

This meeting was a virtual meeting on Zoom, by phone or by computer/iPad:

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Subcommittee Members Present:

Rob Caruso, Chair, participating remotely

Lucie Chansky, participating remotely

Nancy Kritzman, participating remotely

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Anne Marie Killilea

Eileen Sandberg

City Staff Present:

Jini Fairley, ADA/504 Coordinator

Guests:

Councilor Downs

“Funding for the Benefit of People with Disabilities” Subcommittee

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

Meeting started at 3:50pm with introductions.

2. Approval of March 29, 2022 Meeting Minutes (3:35-3:40)

Rob asked if minutes were read and if there were any changes or comment. Lucie said yes, she asked to make a change from mental health disabilities to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in two places. Lucie made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Nancy seconded the motion. Rob asked all in favor say yes, three yes, no no's. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Mission Statement (3:40-3:45)

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

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

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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. Rob read the mission statement and Lucie suggested adding the word accommodating after livable. Nancy made a motion to accept with change and Lucie seconded it. Vote was taken and Rob asked all in favor say yes, three yes, no no's. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CDBG Projects (3:45-4:00)

Rob asked if there were any preferences to a particular project and Lucie said yes, the City Hall campus project. Lucie asked about ARPA funding and Jini said she has not heard. Rob said we have to move forward whether we have an answer about ARPA funds or not. Nancy asked about sidewalks/curb ramps and whether the COD had any say or was this strictly a city project. Jini said the curb cut data was in correct, the report indicated sidewalks and curb cuts are in poor condition. The sidewalk inventory is complete and needs to be prioritized by the city, the Transition Plan is in draft form. Jini reminded all that CDBG cannot be used for sidewalks so let's concentrate on curb cuts. Jini mentioned curb cuts cost is \$5k each it may take years. Repaved roads would take care of curb cuts. Counselor Downs said how difficult it is to get the city to move on this. She said there should be a focus on curb cuts on busy street where someone could get hurt. Rob asked a question how involve and what steps does ISD have in the complaint of deficient or non-existing curb cuts? Jini answered that that complaint is DPW driven, it goes directly to DPW whether it is the COD or 311. Jini mentioned the COD could have influence on what project should be prioritized. Conversation went on about what roads and sidewalks in Newton need attention. Jini mentioned with GIS you can locate curb cut locations. Rob asked if there was another project that could be recommended to the COD that would be within the \$95K allocation. Rob specifically mentioned the Dexter/Walnut intersection \$50K project, Jini agreed it was a good one. Rob asked Nancy if she had any preferences, she mentioned the City Hall Campus because it serves so many people. Jini mentioned the restrooms in the libraries specifically Auburndale. She asked if this committee would be interested in this project because each one is a stand-alone exceeding \$200K, Public buildings would have to chip in. Rob asked for a motion to recommend projects to COD as mentioned, I.e. Dexter/Walnut, Nancy made the motion to present the City Hall Campus and Dexter/Walnut to the COD. Rob asked if Lucie wanted to second it and she asked for specific location of Dexter/Walnut. After explanation Lucy seconded the motion. Rob asked all those in favor say yes, Lucie, Nancy and Rob said yes and motion passed. Rob then said the Subcommittee would recommend to the Full COD that these two projects should be done. Jini asked Rob if he would present these projects at the next COD meeting, Rob answered Yes. Councilor Downs announced she had to leave the meeting. Jini reported that Eileen could not make the meeting due to an emergency.

5. Potential Budget Item (4:00-4:20)

Not discussed.

6. Rental/Subsidy Housing (4:20-4:25)

Not discussed.

7. Accessible/Affordable Housing (4:25-4:55)

Not discussed.

8. Next Meeting Date/Time (4:55-4:59)

Rob asked the next meeting date and time. Jini recommended June 27th. Nancy asked if we would have an answer on ARPA fund at the next COD meeting. Jini said Rob as Chair of the Sub-Committee should ask Hattie at every meeting until you get an answer. Lucie asked Jini to share the article in the Boston Globe about surrounding area accessible parks with the full Commission, Jini said she would reread it and share it. Jini mentioned that universal design has become the standard for parks.

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9. Adjournment (4:59-5:00)

The meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

These draft minutes were prepared by Rob Caruso, Chair of the Funding Subcommittee.

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 27, 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 or (617) 796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service, please dial 711 or call City Hall's TTY/TDD line at 617-796-1089.