



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
***HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**18 January 2022**

**Regularly Monthly Meeting**

**Present:** Adrienne Pomeroy, Staff Liaison, ADA Coordinator  
Bonnie Denis, Chair  
Holly Simione, Commissioner  
Katie Milton, Commissioner  
Lian Guertin, Commissioner

**Guests:** Brian C. Postlewaite, Temp. Secretary, Director of Engineering  
Kate White, Mobility  
Heather, Closed Captioner  
Henry Edward Hardy  
Ginny Alverson, PTAC-Vice Chair

Note: Due to COVID-19 Shutdown, all attendees were remote via Zoom Meeting.

**General**

- Brian's three-year term on the Commission expired in December, but can be an associate and renominated to Commission for a second term.

- Lian nominated Brian for a second term on the Commission. Unanimous approval. Bonnie will write letter to mayor to support nomination.
- Bonnie nominated Brian to be an associate member of the Commission. Unanimous approval.
- Bonnie motioned for Brian to serve as temporary secretary for this meeting. Unanimous approval.

### **Chair's Report**

- Received records request from the City.
- Brickbottom Vision Report was published; commission should review and comment.

### **Coordinator's Report**

- Training for public meetings will be held soon. The training will also include the other RSJ Commissions.
- Board of Public Health will be meeting soon on COVID vaccine requirements.

### **New Business**

- Draft Public Outdoor Seating process document was issued. Commission discussed draft and offered the following comments & questions:
  - Include ISD and/or ADA Coordinator on all reviews regarding table layout.
  - If state does not allow Parklets with alcohol, could other restaurants have parklets? [Answer determined after meeting, included for reference: Restaurants without alcohol licenses could still construct parklets. However, state extended temporary outdoor seating regulations that allowed alcohol licensed restaurants to have parklets.]
  - Clarify clear passage width of 60" is required no more than every 200'.
  - Clarify where the 48" and 60" clear passage widths are required.
  - Account for sidewalk surface conditions, especially where walkway is routed around sidewalk seating.

- SCPD requests to be able to comment and/or approve outdoor seating licenses.
- Requests that barriers and/or separation between tables be required, similar to the first year of outdoor seating. Many people with disabilities are unable to avoid walking down the street & sidewalk and thus cannot reasonably avoid people sitting adjacent to the sidewalk eating.
- Outdoor seating has increased the travel time of many people with disabilities.
- Brick sidewalks in Davis Square remain a large problem that is exacerbated by the outdoor seating.
- Clarify maximum slopes (1:12 & 8.3%) and the level landing size (60"x60") and the maximum gap tolerance (1/2").
- Outdoor routes to private outdoor seating should be accessible.
- Provide accessible toilets.
- Request increasing accessible seating from the 5% minimum required by MAAB to 20%. People with disabilities are disproportionately susceptible to COVID and should have increased ability to eat outside if they choose.
- Require restaurants to provide a reservation system for accessible seating.
- Request 60" sidewalk width everywhere.
- Provide the fees and violation time frames. Describe the 311 complaint process.
- Provide metal bridge plates between parklets and sidewalk covering any gap and the granite curb, which is often a non-compliant surface.
- Require all ramps and/or accessible curb ramps to be in good repair.
- Provide more loading and/or accessible parking spaces if outdoor seating (parklets) will occupy general parking spaces.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting; approved unanimously.**