



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

12 April 2022

Regularly Monthly Meeting

Commissioners: Adrienne Pomeroy, Staff Liaison, ADA Coordinator
Bonnie Denis, Chair
Holly Simione, Commissioner
Katie Milton, Commissioner
Lian Guertin, Commissioner
Brian C. Postlewaite, Secretary, Director of Engineering

Assoc. Commissioners: Henry Edward Hardy
Pauline Downing

Guests: Nancy, Close Captioner
Jamie Perconti
Harriotte Ranvig
Colin Killick
Ginny Alverson, PTAC-Vice Chair

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

General

- Jamie Perconti nominated for associate commissioner. Unanimous approval.
- Harriotte Ranvig nominated for associate commissioner. Unanimous approval.

Chair's Report

- Mike Mastrobuoni met with Bonnie & Adrienne about the use of the accessible parking funds; further discussion in Old Business.
- Bonnie met with US2 regarding their Webster/Prospect project:
 - 30' grade across the site resulting in many ramps and stairs
 - Receptive to request to provide more designated space for accessible seating
 - Discussed the inaccessibility of the social stairway at MBTA plaza at D2; US2 will consider, but likely too late to revise that design
 - Invited US2 to attend an SCPD meeting
 - Discussed paving & seating materials with goal to be more accessible friendly
 - Discussed that we can request and that they can build beyond ADA/MAAB minimums
 - ADA/MAAB does not include best practices for those with sensory disabilities

Coordinator's Report

- SCPD membership applications:
 - deadline is Friday, 15 April
 - sent to ADA email
 - five currently interested
 - will review applications over the next few weeks
- RSJ webinars on a regular basis about various topics; they are all recorded and available.
- RSJ is developing a city-wide ADA/accessibility survey.

Old Business

- Accessible Parking Funds

- Over a 9 month period the Parking Dept generated approximately \$59,000.
- The Commission needs to write a MOU discussing the categories to spend the funds on and submit to the City Council for approval on an annual basis.
- The MOU allows for more expedient processing of payment requests to the City Accountant.
- Do funds carry over from year to year? Yes, it is a revolving fund.
- Does the SCPD currently have a City budget line item? Not currently; this is also up for consideration and would be separate from the Accessible Parking Funds.
- Items on the City budget line item would most likely be used for staff support during meetings (e.g. minutes by Clerk's office).
- Accessible Parking Fund requirements:
 - May not include items that other businesses, organizations or institutions are already required to accomplish by law or regulation.
 - Must be a benefit that supports the community in general or the disability community in particular.
 - May not support individuals, alone.
- Accessible Parking Fund budget ideas:
 - Stuff/Items
 - Accessible playground equipment
 - Accessible sports equipment
 - Magnifying equipment for the library
 - Library books related to disabilities or characters with disabilities
 - Busstop benches
 - Programming
 - Art exhibits
 - Performance/poetry
 - Afterschool programs for students with disabilities
 - Publicity
 - Publications
 - Yard signs
 - Press releases
 - Public service announcements

- Social Media
- Grant Making
 - Scholarships
 - Arts/culture fund
 - Sign language interpretation for other organizations
- Internal Operations
 - Training
 - Office supplies & equipment
 - Meeting food
 - Accessible mapping guides
 - Study accessible features to be placed throughout the city
 - Consultant to recommend and direct work throughout the city to improve the lives of those with disabilities
 - Parking violation officers to better enforce accessible parking rules

Motion to Adjourn Meeting; approved unanimously.