



Public Health
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

July 9, 2019

Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Nancy Salamoun, Staff Liaison, Mgr. of Equity Diversity and Inclusion
Colin Killick, Chair
Bonnie Denis, Commissioner
Christopher Dreher, Commissioner
Brian Postlewaite, City Staff, Commissioner

Absent: Finn Gardner, Commissioner

Guests: None

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting commenced on July 9, 2019 at 6:35pm.

Announcements

- Bonnie Denis is working with Somervision 2040 on an upcoming Disability Forum. They are looking at late August and early September. The Commissioners narrowed down a couple of dates and Bonnie will relay this information to the Somervision 2040 staff.

Bonnie will create a Google doc for the questionnaire questions.

- Brian informed the group that the City is reconstructing the sidewalks on Medford Street and are trying to resolve accessibility concerns.

Chair's Report

- The Disability Policy Consortium will be holding their annual event on October 17, 2019.
- Since the Straw Ordinance a few months ago, businesses are being encouraged to make straw available upon request. The City Council is planning on having an educational component to prepare businesses.
 - Colin Killick will invite Councilor Hirsch to an upcoming meeting to discuss ways that the Commission can be of help with the educational campaign.
 - There was a discussion on having a general educational campaign for businesses on accessibility concerns, i.e. placing items too high.
 - Trash bins being left in the middle of sidewalks after trash day and obstructing the right of way was identified as another area for education.
 - Scooters at times block the sidewalks
 - Question about whether or not motorcycles are able to get visitor parking passes through T&P.
- Green Line Extension
 - Agreement reached on Union Square regarding the placement of an elevator. The City, MBTA and the Developer will share the costs of the elevator.
 - Gilman Square concerns continue. There is no accessible route from the station to City Hall due to the street slopes. Specific concerns are regarding the plans to put a staircase from the station to City Hall without also providing an accessible path.
- HP parking violations and revenue
 - Colin met with Councilor Scott and Andre Green regarding the use of HP violation funds. The discussion centered around Mass General Laws, Title VII, Chapter 40, Section 22G that authorizes that revenue from HP parking violations to be utilized to benefit people with disabilities. "Expenditures from said account, including accrued

interest, if any, shall be made upon the recommendation of the commission on disabilities in accordance with the accepted procedures of the city or town for the disbursement of funds.”

- The Commission would like to know how much revenue is generated each year from these violations and how the money is being utilized.
- The Commission would like funds to go into an account that the Commission authorizes for the use of accessibility improvements.
 - One use could be to fund portable ramps that individual can rent out. This could be helpful for businesses as well who have a small step to enter.
- Next step is to request the revenue information from Traffic and Parking and to invite Councilor Hirsh and Councilor Scott to an upcoming meeting.
 - Colin will invite Councilors. Nancy will request information from Traffic and Parking.

Members' Report

- The Commission will discuss the annual NDEAM event at the next meeting.
 - Question of whether or not the Commission wants to proceed with this event.

Director's Report

- The Community Preservation Act Manager and a member of the Community Preservation Committee would like to meet with the Commission to discuss the use of CPA funds, which is often used to make historic buildings accessible.
 - The Commission would like to invite them to the September meeting if they are available.

Public Input

- No members of the public were present.

Old Business

- Motion to pass May 2019 meeting minutes: Approved.

- Remote participation is tabled for a future meeting.
 - Colin will reach out to the Commission on Disability Alliance for a sample policy. Chris will also look for sample policies.

New Business

- Motion to hold elections for Chair in September. Approved.
- Recruitment opportunities
 - Looking at tabling events
 - Community Forum in late August/early September
 - City blast
- Motion to create a Housing Subcommittee. Approved
 - Members will include Bonnie Denis and Brian Postlewaite

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: 8:13pm