

City of Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
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>>Adrienne: Good evening, everyone. Hi, Harriette.  
>>Hi. Did I hear music? I thought I heard music, like an instrument.  
>>Hi, everybody.  
>>Adrienne: Hi, Ginny.  
>>It sounded like a clock to me.  
>>I thought I wasn't going to be able to attend this meeting.  
>>Adrienne: I'm sorry, Ginny, can you say that again.  
>>I said originally, I wasn't supposed to be able to attend this meeting because PTAC was going to do a bylaws meeting but that got cancelled.  
>>Adrienne: Well, lucky for us you're here. We're excited to have you.  
>>I can take care of being a represent for PTAC.  
>>Adrienne: There you go. I always like efficiency. That works out. Hi, Holly.  
>>Holly: Hi. Thank you for already having live transcript on. Appreciate that.  
>>Adrienne: Sure. Well, that's credit to Nancy, our captioner. She's extremely punctual.  
>>Holly: Thank you.  
>>Pauline is having trouble getting in. She said she needs the password. She didn't write the password to the --  
>>I did, but I can't find it. I thought I had it on my card that I wrote out, but it's not there.  
>>You said 436856?  
>>Holly: It's in the chat, yes.  
>>436856.  
>>The meeting ID is 837 --

>>Go ahead and try to get in, Pauline.  
>>I'll try it. It didn't want to work.  
>>Harriotte: That's funny. I have a one touch link.  
>>Pauline uses our land line because she really can't use her iPhone efficiently. Truth of the matter is, she can't really use technology efficiently because it doesn't make sense.  
>>That can be like that, yup.  
>>Adrienne: And Holly just put the meeting ID in the chat as well, Ginny, but it's what I think Pauline was saying or attempting to say.  
>>Holly: Do you also need the dial in phone number or do you have that? For Pauline.  
>>She has the phone number, the mobile phone number. I think it's a phone number. I'm not real sure. But I think she's trying to get in. Pretty much, we've been watching the news to see what updates are coming you the of the shooting on the subway in New York.  
>>Yeah. I heard about that.  
>>And I don't know why -- I don't know why law enforcement won't call an attack like that what it is.  
>>Harriotte: I was on a disastrous call across the U.S. today from 3:00 to 4:00 every week, it's open, partners for disaster, emergency disaster relocation particularly for people with disabilities.  
[ Cross- talk ]  
>>Let me see if I can go get her in. Let me see what I can do to help. Why don't you just sit here. We're connected. Well, you can't because -- yeah, you can. I have your phone, so I can run the screen reader. Pauline, go try again.  
>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Good evening.  
>>Adrienne: Good evening, Bonnie. I'm going to start the recording. Our transcriptionist is here.  
>>Bonnie, Pauline is struggling to try to get into this meeting.  
>>Bonnie: Thank you, Ginny. We'll give her a minute to get in.  
>>Harriette: Otherwise, can she sit with you, Ginny?  
>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. It looks like we're also missing Henry and Colin. I haven't heard anything from them saying they're not going to be here, so I'm happy to give it a couple more minutes.  
>>Sounds good. I hope everybody got out for a little bit today. It sure is beautiful.  
>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. I did. My door is open now. I was going to sit outside, but my computer wasn't charged.  
>>Isn't it the way, yes. By the way sometimes I get on a call like this and I'm sideways, remind me, please. I think I do have

it on landscape right now, so I think it should be fine. Also the distance, how far I should sit is also a little obscured to me.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. You look great, Harriette.

>>Thank you. I will confess, Bonnie, I have not read the agenda through again.

>>Bonnie: That's all right. We have a fairly straightforward agenda this evening. Ginny, does Pauline need the phone number again?

>>I don't know what she has written down. It's the password that's giving her trouble.

>>Bonnie: Okay. Let me grab that. The pass code is 436856.

>>That's what I dialed and they said I needed a password.

>>It's not accepting the password.

>>It's telling me that's the participant ID.

>>Jamie: This is Jamie. Is it possible that we've got the meeting ID wrong and that's why the password isn't working?

>>Maybe that meeting ID is --

>>83712850931.

>>That sounded right.

>>Bonnie: That is the correct meeting ID.

>>Maybe start over again. I don't know.

>>Bonnie: Let me just check. I'm not sure that I can see it on here. Adrienne, are you able to see in your, like when you open up Zoom there's preferences and whatnot, can you double-check there?

>>Adrienne: Yup. The meeting ID is, I will copy it and stick it in the chat if I can.

>>Can you stick it in a quick e-mail to me?

>>Adrienne: I can do that as well, of course.

>>Thanks. And I'll grab it out of that and get her in.

>>I'm going to sit and listen. I'm not going to bother.

>>She's sitting here with me. I'm using my laptop and I'm --

>>Bonnie: Okay. So that is the meeting ID, Adrienne. The pass code --

>>Is 436856.

>>Adrienne: Hold on one second. Or is Pauline dialing the wrong phone number.

>>I don't know. I'm dialing it correctly.

>>That is a possibility she's dialing the wrong phone number, too.

>>I'm not.

>>Adrienne: Hold on. 436 --

>> -- 856.

>>Adrienne: Yes, 436856.

>>That's the password. The ID is the --

>>The first number; right?

>>If she's dialing the right phone number to get into this --  
>>1646 --  
>>Adrienne: Yes.  
>>So I'm dialing everything correctly.  
>>It's just not letting her in.  
>>It's not letting me in.  
>>Harriette: Usually my experience is sometimes you have to end it and then start over again, you know. I don't know, it just gets scrambled.  
>>She said she's tried that four different times.  
>>Come join us, Pauline, please.  
>>I have ear phones on so I can hear the screen reader. She can hear you folks, I think.  
>>I can hear you.  
>>So she can sit here at the end of my bed.  
>>Bonnie: All right. Thank you. I'm sorry that that's --  
>>That's about what we're going to have to do for this week anyway.  
>>I'm sorry, Bonnie, but I'm ready to chew nails at this point.  
>>Next week she's not going to sit in front of the TV and watch a baseball game. We'll see if things work.  
>>Bonnie: Okay. Great.  
>>Because both of us were watching the red Sox team we wanted material for tomorrow for our radio show.  
>>Bonnie: Well, thank you for taking the time to join us for a little bit.  
>>We're always good to join you guys.  
>>Bonnie: Great. All right. I'm going to get started.  
Adrienne, do you want to hit record.  
(Recording in progress)  
>>Bonnie: Great. Thanks, everyone. Just a reminder if you can before you speak introduce yourself, just say your first name, that's fine and that way it's easier for everyone to follow along.  
The big portion of our meeting this evening I put at the front of the agenda because I was hoping that we would be able to get the city's budget director to join us, but since he is unable to, I think I'm going to go out of order because that's going to take up the bulk of our discussion and I expect the other things to be shorter.  
So unless people have objections to that, I can do my report first. The big thing is Adrienne and I had a meeting with Mike M., the budget director to discuss the use of our accessible parking funds. It was a good meeting. We have some follow-up that we need to do on training and I'll talk more about that when we get to discussion on what to do with the funds, but I am hopeful about it and I think it will be good for all of us.

The other meeting we had recently was with some folks from US2, who are the big developers doing much of Union Square's development and we met specifically to talk about a plaza that they're doing at 50 Webster Street, which is the intersection of Webster Street and Somerville Ave right in Union Square. I don't know if folks had been to it.

There had been one previous community meeting on it and I had raised some concerns in that, so they reached out and I think it was, again, a really great discussion. They have a lot of plans for the space. There is rather a dramatic level change from the top to the bottom of the street of about 30 feet, so there will need to be a lot of ramps into the various spaces.

On the top level they're planning an amphitheater and it will be public space, they will be encouraging public use of it. At the mid level there is a plaza with entry into the building which they expect to have some retail and office space. And then on the bottom level there's another area of open seating. Let me just finish this and then Jamie, I see your hand.

So Adrienne and I both brought up concerns that they seemed very receptive to. The biggest being that the amphitheater only had access for people using wheelchairs on the lowest level and we pointed out that that was not very inclusive. So we talked about doing a lot of carve-out spaces on the top level and the lower level to allow wheelchair users to have options for where they sit and be more of a part of that.

And the same thing on the lower level, they're planning a mix of movable seating and fixed seating at the request of the city, and the fixed seating was one continuous bench and we've asked that they incorporate some open spaces into that as well to allow people to get in there with wheel shares or with strollers or other mobility aids.

>>This is Jamie. I just wanted to clarify, I think you said this was Webster and Somerville Avenue, but I believe the place we're talking about is Webster and Prospect.

>>Bonnie: You're correct. Thank you. Me and geography are not the best of friends, but I believe you are correct.

Also towards the end of the meeting I brought up that they were doing a lot of the development in the area and I mentioned a project that I thought was past the point of being able to make any design changes, and it may be, but they're going to look into it, and that is the plaza for the elevator going to Union Square Station. There had been a social staircase planned and as I think we're all aware, those are not very accessible. Again, it leads to a lot of seating for able bodied people and not really inclusion of people who can't climb stairs. So they are going to look at that and think about that in future projects as well.

So I invited them to come to a future meeting and I think Adrienne and I will probably press them on that. They were non-committal, but I think that with some gentle nudging they can be coaxed, and I think it would be good because I think other people here will have perspectives that I don't have. You know, I could speak from the viewpoint of somebody with mobility impairments, but I wasn't going to speak on behalf of people who are blind or people with sensory issues, and I think that it would be great since they're going to be building the bulk of Union Square for them to, like, really get into that discussion with everyone here.

Harriette.

>>Yes. This is Harriette. And I'm very curious for two reasons. One is, I would have no idea what to suggest or what to comment without full knowledge in lay terms of what is actually planned. So that's one thing. So in other words, if I weren't fully prepared with some knowledge or sense of what is either done or almost done or going to be done, I wouldn't really be very useful to that.

The second thing is, what's to argue with the ADA? Aren't they actually legally, you know, charged to it, or is it just, oh, that would be nice, but, you know, it's inconvenient. I don't know. Pardon me.

>>Bonnie: No. Thank you, Harriette. So I think in it terms of being prepared -- Holly, I see your hand -- I think in terms of being prepared that's a really great point and something that we've been talking about a lot, and I think more needs to be done to push people on having materials in advance to be able to review what's being proposed.

I think outside of that, there's general knowledge you can offer in terms of what's best for you in terms of how a sidewalk is laid out, whether you want continuous non-interruption on the inside or outside of the sidewalk, what things would throw you off. But having the plans in a format that you can access I think is critical; you're right.

As for the ADA, yes, they do need to follow that. Unfortunately, ADA and in Massachusetts we also have the Architectural Access Board, they often don't go far enough. So in terms of things like amphitheater and bleacher seating there aren't requirements for having it at every level, you know. There's a lot of things that are really basic that we want to push further, so.

>>So quick question adding on to that. So, in other words, if Massachusetts hasn't functionally legislated what's required then even through the access board or whatever, I thought it was an independent agent, but anyway, if it's not functionally recognized as a part of the ADA, is that what I'm catching?

>>Bonnie: No. I'm saying the regulations that are required often don't go far enough.

>>I see.

>>Bonnie: So when we're talking about building new spaces, the idea is to push further for more inclusion so that it doesn't get sort of stuck in the past.

>>It sort of sounds like it's a zoning thing, too, like what's acceptable, what will be allowed. Okay. Thank you.

>>Bonnie: That's definitely part of it in terms of the types of seating and we also talked about the materials for pavers. So Holly and then Brian.

>>Holly: Thanks, Bonnie. Harriette, I just wanted to add that, you know, from the federal to the state to the municipality, there are things that have to be done, but then, you know, Brian and I have talked about this several times, correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Postlewaite, there's guidelines and then there's good design. And the city certainly tries to go above those minimums because it doesn't make sense. But other times the things that -- sorry -- that seem obvious to us are really harder for the city to accomplish.

Last meeting we had a wonderful guest with us and he went over very quickly laws and regulations and then sent a lot of links. And I was looking at those today, Bonnie, I'm not sure if all those are posted on our, you know, page on the website, but those are fantastic resources. They're complex, but I feel personally that a lot of the challenges that we have are more communication, not so much as purposely not looking at the design, but more sort of as things get deeper to the person that actually does the work and the follow-up that things can be, you know, planned a certain way but positioned another way.

So it's not a perfect system for sure, but the more we as residents say this is an issue, and a message to 311 with a picture, that's the only way things will individually get done. Bonnie, are you able to share that e-mail with the links?

>>Bonnie: I did. I sent that e-mail to everybody earlier today. I apologize, I thought I sent that earlier this month and I realized I hadn't. It went out to everyone earlier.

Brian and Colin.

>>Brian: Holly pretty much covered everything I was going to say. The ADA and AMB to a certain degree is a bear minimum and we shouldn't ever be designing to the bear minimum unless we absolutely have to. And I really applaud, Bonnie, your conversation with US2 and I think we as a Commission should continue that and really impress upon developers, and the city, to not build just to the minimum but to seek out the places where we can move more closer -- gee, that was bad grammar -- to

universal design principles.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Brian. And I'll note that Harriette mentioned zoning and in terms of pushing the city, City Council does have some pretty powerful tools in regards to zoning and I think that that would be a great thing for this Commission to take on because we don't have to have legislation at a city level be the bear minimum. We can ask for more and require more. And that politically is a challenge because people worry about upsetting developers, but I think now is a great time where we have a lot of people on City Council that are sympathetic to this cause and would be willing to push further.

Colin and then Lian.

>>Colin: Yeah. Just a couple of notes just for context. When it's just to be for folks who are aware, the architectural access board enforces state architectural access law, not the ADA. Only federal authorities can enforce the ADA. And there are some differences between the architectural access law and the ADA. There are some places where it's better, I think like door widths and certain things are larger, many than the access codes in the ADA but there are places where it falls behind, like the access law is not requiring employee only areas of businesses to be accessible which is a problem, but --

The other thing to know is state architectural access law is behind in some areas, it doesn't digress just on a technical level. There is no standard state architectural access, I believe, unless it changed in the last year or two for --

>>Excuse me, Colin, excuse me, this is Harriette. Can you speak a little more slowly, please.

>>Sure. Sorry.

>>Thanks.

>>Colin: So there are certain areas where architectural access code doesn't speak to like accessible pedestrian signals, for instance. And a revision of the architectural access code to address important things to be updated has been sitting in the administration and finance committee for like five years now within the administration. So there are definitely some areas where local action, local ordinance is plausibly needed, even though it should be addressed at the state level it hasn't been.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Colin, for the helpful context. Lian.

>>Yeah. I'm mostly going to echo what's been said about the ADA not going far enough, but I wanted to just mention a few specific ways that I personally have noticed that one, it doesn't really -- it just serves as like can someone physically access the space but doesn't necessarily take into account how might somebody want to actually use the space, like are we limiting them to here's the one section that you are able to sit in. Like are

we limiting them, yeah, you can get in, but if your friends want to be doing this particular thing, then, you know, you can't necessarily join in on that.

So, yeah, going above that, the ADA in terms of actually thinking about how is somebody going to want to use the space, not just can they get in.

And then one specific area I looked into at one point trying to find, you know, is there anything in the ADA addressing sensory issues and found nothing. So that is something that I want to particularly flag if we're talking to developers how can they go beyond the ADA requirements, there aren't any particular requirements for that. So that's something where developers aren't necessarily even going to have guidelines that they can look to because, you know, even if they're like, yes, I'm interested, I want to follow the ADA, like I want to go above it, they won't necessarily be able to find best practices for that very easily. So that's something I just wanted to flag.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Lian. Colin, I see your hand back up. I want to say one thing before I forget that Lian jogged my memory on. In terms of being able to use the space, yes, and that's certainly what we were referring to when asking them to create spaces for wheelchair users to be more integrated.

But the other point is how to access the space. The plans we were shown had a couple of stairways that were really prominent and the plans also had ramps, but they were more out of the way and less obvious and one of the major suggestions we had was removing the staircases or putting them more out of the way so that the pathways that were obvious and that everybody could be using were the ramps. Because, again, how we build a space says who we want to be there. And having it be obvious that access wasn't an afterthought is really good.

Colin.

>>Yeah. That's a great example. If you put the accessible option as the main one, that's one that everyone defaults to use rather than defining inaccessible space.

The only thing I wanted to add these things are going to -- ADA there are guidelines. One useful thing to look at is the U.S. access board which is certainly a federal -- an entity like this, right, it's a governmental advisory body and it's produced sort of suggested standards in a whole bunch of areas, sensory is one of them. They've just never been put into the ADA because of legislative bureaucracy. But in some cases there are actually governmental best practices that's correct you know, we can lean on and point people towards even though we don't have a force of law.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Colin.

>>This is Lian, I just want to respond really quick to that. Yeah, I misspoke slightly. I didn't mean to say that best practice guidelines don't exist, just that, you know, if I as someone who is particularly interested in this and looking forward to finding them then probably the developer who mostly just knows the ADA exists but don't necessarily know beyond that, are they going to be able to find those without being directed to them.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. I think this is a good point, again, for informing people on a city level that these things exist and maybe this is an education campaign we could work on giving those guidelines that might not be as obvious to developers and putting them in front of the planning board.

Hi, Henry. And then Jamie, you wanted to make a comment?

>>Jamie: Yeah. I was just trying to like summarize the discussion in kind of a pithy single sentence. My attempt is the ADA is trying to ensure access, which is one standard, but we really want to strive for inclusion, which is a higher standard.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. I think that's an excellent summation. Welcome, Henry. We're going a little out of order here. So we just discussed having met with developers for 50 Webster Street, which is going to be an outdoor plaza in Union Square, but they're also the developers doing a lot of work in union so talking about increasing access and thinking more clearly about truly including people: And I moved things around thinking that would be a faster discussion, but I'm really glad that we dug into it.

So Adrienne, I'll pass it to you for your report.

>>Adrienne: Thank you, Madam Chair. Very quick, just wanted to inform everybody, as I think most of you know, if you don't know, my position in the city is part of the racial and social justice department, and so with that said, not only is ADA a division, there's several other divisions and initiatives in that department.

So the department has started monthly webinar forums with updates and sort of panelists. The first one was on March 31, and if you missed it, it can be viewed on the city's YouTube channel. The next one will be on April 28th, which I believe is a Thursday evening. And I believe that will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. And like I did with the last one, I will send that information out when it's available.

And then just a reminder that if you know anybody interested in serving on the Commission, they should make that known to the ADA e-mail either if they can't do the full letter and need to talk with me by phone or Chair Denis, that deadline is Friday, the 15th, which is this Friday. So any questions about that, if you'll reach out to me as well. So that's all I had.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. Did you want to receive how many

applicants we received at this point?

>>Adrienne: I have a post it. I'm sorry, I literally just pulled that off the wall. Including, let's see, one, two, three, four, waiting on Harriette five. I will say at this point I -- I will say I've received five, including -- and that includes Pauline and Henry, so I'm including that in my count. There is another individual who had some follow-up questions a week or so ago and I'm waiting, but I'm going to follow up with him tomorrow morning via phone just to make sure so he doesn't miss it.

And I personally understand that Monday is a city holiday, so please, as you're speaking with your networks, you know, we can certainly accept those on Tuesday if somebody needs the weekend to, you know, get some things together or has questions.

So I have five at this point, again, including Pauline and Henry, so, yes.

>>Bonnie: Great. So with Harriette, that will be at least six people.

>>Adrienne: Yes.

>>Bonnie: Great. And after applications close, Adrienne and I will be working together to find time to meet with everyone, I believe.

>>Adrienne: Uh- huh.

>>Bonnie: And review the materials. So I am certainly hopeful we can do that quickly.

>>Adrienne: Yeah. I've blocked some time over the next couple of weeks so we can get together.

>>Bonnie: Good. So the only other thing is I know -- I know Adrienne doesn't have much information about it, but I found out, somebody was mentioning the previously mentioned RSJ forum and there's going to be a community needs survey around the ADA. So that will be a thing to watch out for at some point in the next couple of months, I imagine.

>>Adrienne: Yeah. Probably over the next couple of months something, I'm just sort of throwing around just to this group as we know is amazing, your feedback and letting me know and others know the needs that are out there. But this will be a community-wide survey in hopes of reaching some other folks who maybe haven't been able to voice those previously. And I want to make sure we allow enough time to collect that information because I know that means meeting with folks in-person if they need it, other languages, ASL, other accommodations. So I will have more information soon.

>>Bonnie: Great. Thank you. So next order of business I'm going to do is voting on Harriette and Jamie as associate commissioners. You all know they've been attending these meetings for a while and I sent out to everybody the questions that

I went over with each of them or that they submitted. So any questions from my fellow commissioners, or comments? I see a couple of shaking heads no. I'm happy to move into a vote if somebody wants to call a motion on that. We should probably do them individually.

>>Holly: I'll call a motion to vote on Jamie's application.

>>Bonnie: As an associate commissioner?

>>Holly: Oh, as an associate commissioner?

>>Bonnie: Yes, that is what the commission has power to do, and in terms of Jamie, their desire right now is just to be an associate commissioner. I second that motion. So all in favor, aye.

>>Aye.

>>Aye.

>>Aye.

>>Bonnie: All right. The motion passes unanimously. Would somebody like --

>>This is Jamie. Thank you all.

>>Bonnie: Thank you.

>>It's good to be here in an official sense.

>>Bonnie: Yay.

>>This is Lian. I will motion to vote on Harriette as an associate commissioner.

>>Bonnie: I second that motion. All in favor?

>>Aye.

>>Bonnie: The motion passes unanimously. Yay!

>>Yay! Welcome.

>>Thank you.

>>The different between associate and commissioner is the voting capacity.

>>Bonnie: Associate commissioners can't vote. I personally try to run a pretty open and friendly meeting, so it hasn't come into play in terms of associate commissioners have more power and opportunity to speak than the general public. I tend to invite people to speak as long as we have time. But there might come a point where the agenda's too packed on the topic is too contentious or time is too limited, or the next Chair may want to run things differently, and the distinction would come in there where associate members are invited to really give input and feedback on the things being discussed. They just can't vote.

And our bylaws say that when openings occur, we make recommendations from our pool of associate commissioners to fill those open spaces. Again, as we all know, the person who has the official power to make recommendations to City Council is the mayor, but often our feedback and our input and our suggestions are taken into consideration. So that is associate

commissioners.

>>Congratulations, folks. Harriette, it may have taken like seven years, but very glad to have you on the Commission at last.

>>Sometimes things have a long gestation period, what can I tell you.

>>Bonnie: Yes. All right. Speaking of long gestation periods, the bulk of what we can spend the rest of the evening on, use of accessible parking funds. I, of course, don't have the number up in front of me. I can -- I know it is just over \$59,000 currently as of the end of February. March is still being calculated. And that was for a nine-month period.

Adrienne is working to try and get numbers for the previous couple of years because I think it would be helpful for the Commission to know whether that is standard or if COVID affected that by either increasing funds or lowering funds. But as of right now, there's \$59,000 and some change in the account.

>>Wow!

>>Bonnie: Yeah. It's quite a substantial number, and -- sorry, I was wrong, it's \$58,961. But still a substantial number even if I was \$1,000 off.

Harriette.

>>Yeah. Just curious, you said for the last nine months. Am I to understand that this is probably just the last nine months and the previous couple of years is still on record somewhere. Right? Is that the idea?

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Yes. So it's still on record, but it's going to take some work to pull the data out. So there is a law that commissions can request use -- excuse me -- of those funds, but it's -- it's not automatically given. So City Council voted in last July to allocate those funds to us for our use, and at that point the money started being tracked. But it was not being separated prior to that because the allocation hadn't been made to us to use those funds.

So it will take some work from the parking department to go back and try and tease that apart, and we hope that they'll be able to because the data will be useful in informing our decisions. But it wasn't required, so it will take a little more work.

>>Thank you.

>>Bonnie: So what -- what we need to come up with at this point is, I hope I get the terminology correct, Adrienne, correct me if I'm wrong, is a Memorandum of Understanding, which is a document that says this is what we would like to do with the funds. And we've talked previously about it's hard to know what to do with them without knowing how much there is. Now we know how much there is.

But key thing here is, we do not need to be detailed in this

document. The point of the document is to have a list of categories of the things that we would like to do and that can be brought forth to City Council, and City Council can vote on approving those categories. And that way when we have a specific project, it goes to the accountant to just get a check written and they check it and they say, yup, this fits the approved uses, or maybe you need to rethink that. And that way we don't have to have a discussion and go in front of City Council every time we want to get something approved.

It's a blanket thing each year. It does need to get redone every year. And that is a standard city process for all revolving funds.

Henry. You're muted, Henry. No, still muted. It says that you're not, though. So do you want to check your microphone setting?

>>There we go. Henry Hardy here. I'm a little bit confused about why we would use a Memorandum of Understanding, because a Memorandum of Understanding is between two parties to memorialize an agreement. I think I would suggest what we would do here is pass a resolution indicating the ways that in general that we intend to use these funds.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. My understanding is this is how the city handles all revolving funds.

>>Okay. I would like to learn more about that, but I can do that off-line because this is unusual.

>>Bonnie: I think perhaps Counsellor Scott might be a good person to check in with on this because he chaired the finance committee previously and I think would have overseen other such instances of this.

>>JT is in ward two here with me. I will reach out to him to get a better understanding.

>>Bonnie: Great. Thank you. Harriette.

>>Yeah. This is Harriette. Just to reiterate what you said before, I think I hear you saying that what we're discussing today is categories for projects. And if that's correct, it means a certain ingenuity and long vision so that we make those categories specific and broad enough that they might cover a lot of different projects so we don't have to jump through more hoops. That's an expansion of what you said, but that's what I thought you meant.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. That is exactly what I meant and I appreciate the great language around it. But, yeah, that's correct. An important thing to note is we are nearing the end of this fiscal year, so this will need to be redone I believe -- so the fiscal year ends in June, so if we get this done before then, great. And I think -- I think we should attempt that because it's a good exercise and it will really help us hone in and have

the framework. But we also have another opportunity to refine it each year.

And I think there's no reason if we miss something we can't go back to City Council and say we want to update it. But, yeah, I think getting some broad categories is good.

So the thing around the spending itself -- Jamie, did you have a comment before I go to that?

>>Yeah. I just wanted to clarify. So, do -- and this is Jamie -- the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding on an annual basis, would that apply for the fiscal year, so like from whenever City Council says okay until the end of the following June? Or is that on a different timetable in some way?

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. I believe if we do something now, we're trying to get through to the end of the current fiscal year. And again, I think that is good in terms of going through the process. In terms of everybody coming to a consensus and coming up with a project and having the push and time to spend money in the next two months, I think that might be a challenge for us because I also think we're not going to have anything to put forth until at least next month because I don't think we're going to finish something tonight unless somebody is really great at words.

>>I just don't want to take for granted that -- because this is a revolving fund. This isn't something that necessarily goes on the city's budget cycle.

>>Bonnie: Correct.

>>But it does anyway; is that what I'm hearing?

>>Bonnie: Yeah. And I tried pushing at that and if everybody wants to keep pushing at that, we can do that. But I'm not -- I'm not entirely certain we're going to butt up against it being an issue. Because first we have to come up with the things to do and have enough of them to spend that money and then when it's redone in a couple of months, there's probably going to be another 10 or 20 or \$30,000.

I see a lot of questions. Holly and then Lian and then Bryan and then Colin.

>>Holly: You can skip me because I just found the document from the city's website that talks about this and I was going to share it and see if it's correct.

>>Bonnie: Great. Okay. And for folks who can't read the chat, the question was, if there was an MOU that we could look to as a template.

So Lian and then Colin and then Brian.

>>Yeah. Just in terms of the schedule of things, I think we should double-check what happened if the funds aren't all used in whatever cycle, like if it's on the cycle fiscal year. If they roll over anyway I don't think it matters a whole bunch the exact

cycle of the MOU.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. It is a revolving funds. The funds stay with us. They roll over. The only question is, like right now there's roughly \$60,000 and if we have to address any number in what we put in now, that would be the in you be. And we know that that's going to go up. And so the only question is, next year, let's say we manage to come up with a project and spend \$20,000 and then we're doing this at the start of the next fiscal year and another 20,000 came in, great, we still have \$60,000.

Well, we expect that we'll probably get at least another 50,000 throughout the year. So the only question is, can we access that 50,000 in the same year or is that going to be accessed the next year. But the funds absolutely revolve. They do not go away. We could take five years to spend them and they would continue occurring. Let's not take five years to spend them.

>>Yeah. So then my thoughts --

>>Bonnie: It's not a use it or loose it.

>>My thoughts are we should eventually get more details on the exact, you know, how scheduling works. But I think at this point we're probably going to -- the harder point is going to be finding the projects and figuring out how to do them in the first place. I don't think we're going to hit up against the running out of money, so I think we should focus on the getting started before we worry too much about what's the exact schedule.

>>Bonnie: Great. And I will, after we get through these questions, talk about how to spend it. So Colin and then Brian.

>>My question was -- my thought was on the how to spend it portion, so I can hold it until then.

>>Bonnie: Great. Brian. You're muted.

>>Brian: You already answered mine. This is Brian.

>>Bonnie: Okay. So, the how to spend it. A thing I learned that I'm waiting on a follow-up to be scheduled and hopefully that happens soon, I will do another poke next week if we haven't heard anything from Director Masterboni by then is a training on the procurement process.

So there is a thing in Massachusetts law about doing projects and spending money. If our projects are under \$10,000, we will probably not butt up against this. If our projects are over \$10,000, we probably will. And what happens at that point is you need to put projects out for bid and get multiple proposals.

Adrienne, do you want to clarify the --

>>Adrienne: I do.

>>Bonnie: Please.

>>Adrienne: I totally agree with what you're saying. I want to clarify in terms of city staff capacity because you mentioned Mike M. How this is going to look like, I am waiting and I will

poke, to use your word, is the procurement department, office does periodic trainings, especially for new employees, so we all understand how this works. And because of their staff, it works better. So I believe I put this in an e-mail to you, the next training that happens, I will let you all know. And as you and I discussed, Madam Chair, the folks that maybe would benefit from this group, I have not gotten anything about it. I was told it will be sometime in April, but I will check on that this week.

>>Bonnie: Great. Thank you. So I think it's beneficial for me to take that training so that I can bring it back to everybody. And in the interest of time, it probably makes sense to invite one or two other people from the commission, but not the entire commission, because it's -- it's going to be something that we'll have all the information that we can share, but the training itself I think is not going to be a thing that has to be known by every single person in terms of the nitty-gritty.

But the important thing for the group to understand now as we put together the MOU and we think about projects is, if we want to do projects that cost more than \$10,000, that's going to be a different thing. And again, we need to think about capacity and whether or not that's something we want to take on, because it would require putting out bids --

Holly.

>>Holly: I'm sorry to interrupt. You just said that the end of the fiscal year was coming. Is the budget complete?

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. The budget is not complete, but it's also -- we're not subject to the budget because these are revolving fund that's not a line item.

>>Holly: Right. But in the past, this Commission and other commissions have had budget line items to do -- for our Commission. Has anyone put in a request and how do we do that?

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. To my knowledge, there have not been ADA-specific budget requests from City Council, which is the process I have seen. On a city level, I don't know and I would love to hear from Adrienne what sort of -- because we've been lacking a line item for --

>>Holly: It was years ago. It was a long time. And the things that I'm thinking of would be training, someone needs to do training who's part of the commission, or we need to print flyers, or we need -- there's some like soft costs more office-related. I'm not talking about a very large budget, but I think that to support the Commission as well as other commissions, there should be a budget line item for things, especially for training.

Adrienne, I don't -- I'm sorry to put you on the spot, but do you have --

>>Adrienne: No. No. I appreciate your feedback, Holly. It is essentially, and I'm sure commissioner Postlewaite will agree with me, we're officially starting budget season, that has started. So this is a timely conversation because those are things that as the staff liaison to the Commission I can take back to my department and say this is what we're talking about.

So what I can say to you at this point is I've made note of that, and all departments are talking about it right now, like those conversations have started. So I'm happy to take that back and, you know, I'll work with Chair Denis or bring this back to see what can be done. And again, as I've always said for the sake of time because it's almost 7:30, if you think of anything else, you all know how to get an hold of me, and the sooner the better because, again, we are now in the season of budgeting, so.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. Do you have a deadline on when?

>>Adrienne: No personally have a deadline because just I'm coming up on five months in my role. But again, I'll just say as soon as possible. Because as we talk about in the spirit of inclusion and accessibility, in the spirit of knowing sooner rather than later and starting these conversations, that is helpful.

So I guess since you put me on the spot, given the holiday, I will set a deadline, if possible, of next Friday, so about two weeks, little less than two weeks. And I'm happy to carve out some one- to- ones with time if members of the commission have specific things they would like to talk to me about.

Again, you have my contact information. I'll put an e- mail out tomorrow so you have it on your radar. I'm happy to always bring those things back to the department as we have those conversations.

>>Bonnie: Great. Thank you. Jamie.

>>I think the obvious thing is staff support, like getting someone from the clerk's office to take minutes for us. I know that's been an issue in the past, particularly when Brian's been recused for reasons. But, yeah.

And I do know that staff support for commissions is something that the finance committee of City Council has talked about a couple of times. They've been particularly focused on the wage theft advisory commission, but also more generally. They're aware that commissions do not have these things and there are several City Councillors supportive of giving us better support. But, of course, the budget comes from the administration to begin with, so.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Jamie. All right. So I hope it makes sense in terms of like we have the money. It's a revolving fund. It's not going to go anywhere. We need to think about how to spend

it.

Colin.

>>Yeah. So we got to talking about the possible budgetary stuff as opposed to uses of the fund itself. Are we moving on to the topic of possible areas to use the funds?

>>Bonnie: Yes. I think that would be great.

>>So I think that like there's sort of four broad buckets that I think might be a useful way to think about like areas in which funds can be allocated.

>>Bonnie: I'm going to pause you for one second and make sure, Brian, are you taking like solid notes on this? Or should somebody be --

>>Brian: I am doing the best that I can, but yes, I am. I am.

>>Bonnie: Awesome. Great.

>>Brian, I'll help you. I'll do some now, too, and we can marry them.

>>Brian: I would appreciate that, as typical.

>>Adrienne: And I'm also taking handwritten notes as I always do, so we'll just throw that in there. All right. I'll start now.

>>Bonnie: Is somebody -- Katie, is -- thank you. Great. Colin.

>>All right. So I think roughly the four I would suggest is staff, programming, grant -- sorry -- (background noises) -- yeah. Stuff, programming, grant making and like internal use. And so like specifically within those, like stuff would be things like, and these are just things other municipalities have done, accessible playground equipment, magnifiers for the libraries for folks who are visually impaired if we wanted to do accessible climbing stuff, you know, or making changes to the sports field or whatnot, that sort of thing would be in that bucket.

Programming, like we could do a disability- focused art series. We could like work with the Somerville museum to put on like some kind of exhibit focused on disability. I just saw a really amazing exhibit at the Rhode Island school of design art museum that was focused on disability. We could do like a poetry or music or whatever like performance kind of thing, which is what we used to do way back then for the national disability -- even on a -- like do it at the -- a prominent venue.

The grant making piece there are a couple of possible things. One would be some municipalities have done scholarships for disabled high school students. Another would be arts and culture accessibility grant making, so rather than putting on stuff ourselves we could establish a fund and be like if you are a grassroots sort of, you know, organization, you are putting on, you know, a performance at the Davis Square Theater or you're

putting on whatever, and you would, say, like to have sign language interpreters but don't have the money for it, we could give you a grant to provide that.

And then also in that bucket would be, and this is -- isn't this a thing we should be doing anyway, but we could have, for instance, for like restaurants or things like that, maybe restrict it to ones that are small or urban earned but like say if you want to put in a ramp, right, you know, you want to make some kind of like accessibility- focused modification to your business open to the public, there's a possibility of grant making in that regard.

And then the last bucket was internal stuff. Staff support maybe should come out of actual city budget but something like that theoretically. Even if it's small scale of like if we ever go back to having in- person meetings again like having food at our things. Or if we need to do printing. If we wanted to send one of our members to --

>>Bonnie: Can you slow it down just a little.

>>Sorry. This is really hard for me. If you wanted to send one or more of our members to an external training that costs money, et cetera. So those are roughly some things we could consider.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Those are great. Thank you, Colin. I particularly like the training. I know that there's been a lot of things out there and there's a lot of disability conferences as well. And I think it's always helpful for people to be in community and see what other people are doing and learn from them. But often these things cost money.

Katie.

>>As someone who is now the ADA Coordinator at her position, I think that at a nonprofit, I think that training for especially -- training for people who are, you know, maybe Somerville nonprofits or something, you know, giving training about what they should be looking for in their field. I don't know. I'm sure they're out there. I know they're out there, but something specific would be really nice. Maybe some sort of services that people are often using, whether that be, I don't know, municipal -- then they should be paying for those, shouldn't they? Yeah. Never mind.

>>Holly: I like where you're going, though. Sorry. This is Holly. Pardon me for but thing in. I like where you're going, Katie. We need to separate what the city is legally required to provide from how we supplement our fund.

>>Yeah. That's what I was thinking. I know I can do training but what should I get, what should I be looking for or maybe -- it comes up a lot. People are asking for reasonable modifications and that kind of stuff is coming up. I don't get those requests a lot, I get more accommodations about rules as opposed to physical

spaces can, but anyway.

>>Holly: So like three buckets in my mind; right. It's what a line item from the budget from the city should be to cover commission expenses, like education, training, coffee, printing, whatever those items --

>>Bonnie: Did you say coffee.

>>Holly: Yes. Colin said we're having food, so I went coffee.

>>Bonnie: Great.

>>Holly: So that's a food. And then so you have those like to be a commission overhead. And then you have what the city should be providing to be in compliance, and as Brian said, to go above what is required. And then what I think are parking funds are is to enhance that. Like we shouldn't have to make a park accessible. A park should be accessible, but we can certainly use funds to find ways to look at those things. You know, like we can buy torpedo things to measure if things are compliant.

>>Maybe like small businesses, like a small day care center, like, you know, a private -- day care, the problem in this country day care is private and so a lot of smaller places can't -- you know. Sorry. I got excited.

>>Holly: I think that's great. So if you called that education --

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. One thing I want to note is we need to look at the nuance of it benefiting the community because -- and there must be ways to do like individual day care centers because there are ways to do individual scholarships. But we need to look at making sure that whatever we implement is a programmatic thing that can be accessed by the same class and not like one-offs to help like a single day care, if that makes sense, the distinction.

>>Holly: Did you say anything over 10,000 has to be put out to bid?

>>Bonnie: There's some nuance to it and we won't know the nuance until we get that training, but that is -- that is what I was told was the baseline is roughly, if it's over \$10,000, it will almost certainly need to go out to bid, which would be a bigger endeavor.

Okay. So there's a bunch of hands. I had a comment and then I saw Lian and then Henry and then Brian.

So two things that I had thought of. One of them ties into play grounds or fitness. Many people have probably seen there's some workout equipment on the edge of the bike path down by Lowell Street and they make accessible versions of that. I would love to see several of those throughout the city. And would I love the city to just do it, yeah. I think it's not quite in the same vein as making playgrounds accessible but I'm happy to be convinced I'm

wrong and push on a city level instead. That's one thought I had.

The other is, there have been a lot of parents talking to me about the lack of after school programming in general and more so for kids with disabilities. After school and summer programming. And often the issue is that the programs don't have the money to pay for aides, but if they did, the kids could attend, so that's an area that I think we should look at. But those are my thoughts.

So Lian, Henry, Brian.

>>Yeah. So this is Lian. I love Colin's categories because most of my things fit into those very well. The first thing on my list actually was after- school programs and that's something where I don't necessarily know what they need, but as someone who, you know, had a previous job that sort of interacted tangentially with after- school programs, it was very clear that they are, you know, underresourced and not necessarily set up for anybody who can't just sort of be left in a room with not much supervision and not many resources and just be okay.

So I think that there is probably a lot that could be done there, but I don't know what it is. So I -- I definitely think that we should try to dedicate some money towards that, but I think we also need to do some, you know, reaching out to people who are either running or using or would be using if they were accessible after- school programs to get a better idea of what the actual needs are.

Another one that I think would be both great and fairly easy to actually do is disability- related books for, you know, city and school libraries and probably also community centers, and both books about disability and books that happen to have disabled characters. I think that is somewhere where a little bit of effort could make a fairly big impact, just in terms of having more resources and more representation.

I had, again, I'm not sure exactly how to actual run it, but sort of along with the grant making, you know, funds for businesses who want to, you know, either add accessibility features or design -- develop programming to better suit the needs of disabled people that don't necessarily have the resources or the knowledge to do that on their own. And again, that's more complicated in terms of how do we make sure that's benefiting the community and not just business. But I think if we could figure that out that would be good.

One thing that I think would be really cool to have is if we could, you know, either probably not our self but hire someone to develop sort of direct guides for city resources, playgrounds, buildings, public restrooms, restaurants in terms of like if you're, you know, I want to go out to eat, where is actually accessible. Like I want to go to a playground, which play grounds

are accessible. If I go to this part of the city, will I be able to find a bathroom I could use, so if we could just sort of develop guides for that to make publicly available, I think that would be really cool.

I also had seating in shade structures at bus stops and along high traffic pedestrian corridors.

>>Bonnie: That's a city one.

>>Yeah. That's sort of in that like where is the line between the city's required to do this slash the city should do this slash the city's never going to do this unless we do it ourselves because it's not actually required.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. I think Brian would be a good one to chime in here, but I'm going to posit that a lot of the issue there would be the physical capacity for it more than the funds for it. I'm sure it's both, but the process of doing street -- or sidewalk furniture is more complicated than just the funds for it.

>>Okay. And then we've already talked about, you know, accessible park tables, playground equipment, exercise equipment, things like that.

And then another one, last one on my list, is ASL classes, either free or subsidized. And I don't know if that's something that should be in the schools slash after school or, you know, libraries, community. But I think especially if there's a way to sort of target that at either, you know, teachers, people who are going to be working with, you know, either children or large portions of the community to have more likelihood that, you know, a deaf kid going into a school will have people there that they can actually communicate with. And parents, families with deaf children that want to have an option to not just mainstream their kid because the parents don't know ASL or people who are, you know, becoming deaf or families of people who are becoming deaf, so it's not just the people going, cool, I'll take an ASL class, that sounds fun, but more targeted to how is this going to actually benefit deaf people themselves and not just people who want to feel good because they took an ASL class.

If it's possible to have the resources to just have classes for everybody, that's great, but I don't know if there's the capacity for that. But I think that it is something that could be good even at a smaller level if it is targeted correctly. And that was all I had at least written down on my list.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Lian. Henry and then Brian.

>>This is Henry Hardy. This is repeating a lot of what people have said, but since I have a list here, I'm going to read it slowly so that it can be incorporated in case I have one or two original ideas, that occasionally happens.

I have four big categories: Publicity, access, events and

training. And then I've broken down publicity into we could have a publication. We can better inform people about their rights and about events. We can have yard signs. It would be great if every month we would be sending out press releases sufficiently in advance for radio and TV play. We could have public service announcements which would play for free if we would produce them. We could work with SCTV on that. Our social media presence could be improved and enhanced. I'm not being ironic. I'm not throwing stones in glass houses here. I see an ironic smile out there.

>>Bonnie: I'm sorry. This is Bonnie. I am agreeing with you completely. Our social media presence could be improved and --

>>Thank you.

>>Bonnie: Thank you.

>>And I'm not really a design person, but I would like to have some input. I've been a web administrator for Boston College before. And our web presence, as Bonnie has mentioned, could be enhanced. We could have more interactivity, we could have more access to documents and to legal and community resources.

I'm trying to go slowly, but I'm trying to go quickly here. Scholarships, contests, art and poetry have been mentioned. I do want to concur that anything that we pay for out of our funds, the city is never going to pay for because it's duplicative. So I think we need to press really hard on the things that we think the city ought to do before we take our measly \$60,000 and that's not a lot of money and devote it there.

I have compassion, and certainly day care centers is a personal thing to target, but I really see this as being a big sticky problem if we start subsidizing private businesses. And also, I think that there is a fairness and equity issue, for another hearing I was at for the licensing commission, I did a little bit of research about what are small businesses, and in the state of Massachusetts typically a small business owner --

>>Bonnie: In the interest of time, can I -- I think we need to focus on like what we want to spend it on. And I hear you that we shouldn't -- you disagree with focusing it on businesses.

>>Can I have another minute, please, Madam Chairman?

>>Bonnie: I don't want to rehash this conversation because I think it's kind of side stepping the point of this particular conversation and we've got about 10 more minutes. But I think the point about whether or not we subsidize businesses is made. So I would love to hear the other things, I just don't want to dive too far down this line about what constitutes a small business.

But I think we would all love to here the other topics that you think we should put money towards. Are you with us, Henry?

>>Madam Chair, you've taken the floor and you have the floor.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. I would love to hear the other topics

you think we should put money towards. We have just a few minutes left and I don't want to veer what we shouldn't put money towards other than stating it. I don't think we have time to get into all of the reasons against.

>>Could I have two more sentences?

>>Bonnie: Sure.

>>Small businesses are among the wealthiest and the whitest cohorts in our community. There are only half as many minority-owned small businesses in Massachusetts, as there should be based on the percentage of the population that white people represent. So I think that we should be helping the neediest and not the wealthiest. Thank you for your consideration, Madam Chair.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. You said you had other topics that you thought the money should go towards. Do you want to share those?

>>Not anymore. I would share them if I thought I could do it without intervention from the Chair, but apparently that is not possible.

>>Bonnie: I'm sorry that you feel that way. And if you'd like to share them after, you are welcome to or you're welcome to e-mail them. And if you're not comfortable e-mailing them to me, I'm sure Adrienne would be happy to receive them as well.

>>May I ask as a point of personal privilege, why do you not want me to talk about small business?

>>Bonnie: I think that the discussion of what a small business is and the amount of money they have is not relevant to trying to do the work of deciding where we want to devote the money.

>>But it is relevant because they don't need the help as much as others do.

>>Bonnie: I think that that is a point of discussion as to -- because not all businesses are created equal and I don't think that that's going to serve us right now. I think it is perfectly credible to say I don't think businesses need assistance in the same way that individuals do and that's a topic that I think we can debate as a Commission. But it kind of side steps everything to focus heavily on that. And I think that we've already discussed it in this Commission and it's just not what this conversation needs right now.

I think this conversation needs where we want to devote the money. And we're going to come up with a list of that and then the Commission can take that list and go over the entirety of the list and prioritize and dissent and agree and decide on the process for which things we want to devote funds to. So I hope that helps clarify.

I want to give Brian a chance to share the feedback on where he thinks we should put funds.

>>Brian: Thank you, Chair. Brian Postlewaite. Just a couple of thoughts. One in response to Lian. Street furniture, like the city, yes, can install street furniture. Oftentimes the biggest hurdle is not the actual installation, but it's -- and sometimes not even the actual product. It's learning and understanding where would it go and how would it fit and making sure that it doesn't obstruct other things, not least of which is the accessibility of the sidewalk.

So one thing we could consider is doing some sort of study or whatnot of where -- of what locations would be useful for the community with disabilities for such infrastructure. Not paying for the infrastructure or installing the infrastructure, but coming up with frankly a long 311 list.

But a couple other ways that we could frame -- or we could categorize how we're -- how we could consider spending the money is looking at items that support people with disabilities, educate people without disabilities about people with disabilities, and that kind of runs the line of advocacy, but I really like what Henry was saying about publications and press releases. And I actually think the community television and the SMC may actually be really happy to collaborate with the commission.

And the third thing that we could consider is using those funds to frankly shame other people into spending the money that they should be spending on disabilities. So if we could use those funds when we are not able to successfully advocate for the city or businesses or educational institutions to do what they should be doing to say, well, if you're not going to do it, we're going to do it, and have a big press release around that and so forth. I'm not so sure if it's the best idea, but it's something we can consider.

And oftentimes when you're doing stuff that other people should be doing, that's implicitly what you're doing. So just a few random thoughts on that.

>>Bonnie: Lian.

>>Sorry. I got cut off. Were you calling me? Yeah. Just one more point that I wanted to make. One thing I think we should keep in mind is the capacity of the commission members. So there's a lot of things that would be really cool to do and I think when we're thinking about the, you know, doing something versus acquiring something, I think the more that we can use the money to hire someone who actually does this as their job but rather than saying this is a thing that we want to do as a Commission with, you know, the limited volunteer time that we all have to put in, I think that would sort of increase our capacity to do things by making it so we don't have to actually do everything ourselves.

So, yeah, Brian made me think of it with can we hire a

consultant to actually go out across the whole city and find all the places that we should be telling the city you need to fix this, that we keep talking about, you know, we need this information but we don't have the capacity to do ourselves. I think that would be a good use of funds.

>>Bonnie: Thank you, Lian. One thing that we haven't talked about but that we could do, which may be outside capacity because it would mean that the scope is broader, but what a lot of commissions do is hire parking enforcement officers specifically to focus more on violations and bring in more funds by doing more enforcement. It spends a little bit of money and then tends to dramatically increase what comes in if to the Commission.

I see Holly.

>>Holly: I one thousand percent endorse that, because not only does it fund the fund, but it also enforces the need to -- for people to not be parking and to not be violating those with disabilities and such. So I know I've seen many municipalities who have been very successful. They also can deputize members of the commission.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Yes, that is something that I've brought up as well and it does not necessarily have to be members of commission. It can be members of the public as well. Other cities have implemented this, so we could certainly look into creating that program for Somerville.

Colin.

>>Yeah. I would say there has been a tend of commissions moving away from the deputizing people model and paying for more formal parking enforcement model just because it reduces the potential for both getting things rolling and for confrontation for lack of a better word. I think people are more willing to accept when it's a city employee doing the enforcement. Although, of course, I would say we should say if it was not increased police presence during that, that raises other problems.

One possible solution to the lack of capacity problem is partnerships. I know that disability commissions in other states have partnered with non- profits, with other civic institutions, whatever, to put on programming, you know, a disability film festival, for instance. We wouldn't need to take all of the submissions and do all whatever. We could say we're an organization that already had the capacity, we will put up the funding for this and help set the criteria and then you can do, you know, like put in the actual work. So just a thought.

>>Bonnie: Thank you. In chat Lian said that was my big concern with this idea. I'm going to guess that you meant retaliation for people doing parking enforcement.

>>No. The just being part of increased policing and I like the

idea of, you know, more enforcement specifically of accessible parking spaces, but if we're going to be part of that, I want to make sure it is in a way that it is not giving more power to the police.

>>Bonnie: Yes. Jamie asked who does parking enforcement and it's the parking department which Brian just put in the chat as well. So it is not police officers. It is the parking department does that.

>>Brian: This is Brian. In if fairness, the police department does have the authority to enforce parking, but it's generally the parking department that actually executes it, with the exception of towing and so forth, which needs a police officer to write a ticket.

>>Bonnie: This is Bonnie. Unless it's on private property, which --

>>Brian: Private property is a different story altogether when it comes to towing.

>>Bonnie: Yes. All right. It is at 8:01, so I'm going to motion to adjourn the meeting. Thank you, everyone. And I think this topic will be on the agenda again next month for more discussion: Thanks.

>>And I'll second.

>>Bonnie: Great. Good night.

>>Brian: Good night.

[Concluded]