

Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities
February, 2011
The Hagan Manor
268 Washington Street
Somerville, MA 02143

Committee Members: Carlene Campbell, Kellyann Binari, Betty Serris, Ellen Frith, Barbara Butler

General Public: Deborah Smith from the Perkins School of the Blind and Joseph Buizon

Chairperson Kellyann Binari opened the meeting at exactly 6:00 pm and preceded with the agenda items.

1. Debra Smith from the Perkins School of the Blind came to speak to the Commission regarding the talking Library. Ms. Smith explained the following about the library:
 - The Main library is located in Watertown and is open Monday through Friday 8:30 am-5pm
 - The Perkins School provides free books on CD to individuals who are legally blind, visually impaired, has learning disabilities i.e. dyslexia or physical limitation i.e. cancer, MS ect.
 - Books can be ordered from a catalog on the website or you can contact Ms. Linda Rossman
 - Books are mailed to and returned to the library for free (somewhat like the Netflix system)
 - Ms. Smith brought a machine and demonstrated how the system worked. The system had large buttons, Braille and voice commands on how to operate the system.
 - One of the best features is that the system continues the book wherever you leave off.
 - Ms. Smith explained that the ADA Coordinator, Librarian or Doctor (depending on category) can sign the application.

Outcome:

Ms. Binari made a motion to add the School link to the new City's website. The motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Binarie made a motion requesting that the City become status of a Patron in the School's system. The motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Binari made a motion that Ms. Campbell speak with the Nancy Milner, Director of the Libraries to leave a machine at the reference desk.

1. A reading and approval of the October meeting minutes.

Outcome:

Ms. Binari made a motion to accept the reading and approval of the October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously.

2. A vote needed to be taken to elect officers of the commission, Chair and Secretary.

Outcome:

Ms. Binari informed the Commission that positions for officers that needed to voted on was Chair and Secretary.

Chair:

Ms. Campbell opened the floor for nominations for Chair; Ms Binari was nominated and was seconded. Hearing no other Commissioner interested in running for Chair. Ms. Campbell made a motion to accept Ms. Binari as the Chair. The motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously

Secretary

Ms. Binari stated that Ms. Teresa Baino will not be running again for the Secretary. Ms. Binari opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Ms. Binari nominated Carlene Campbell for Secretary and the nomination was seconded. Hearing no other Commissioners interested in running for Secretary. Ms. Binari made a motion to accept Ms. Campbell as Secretary. The motion was seconded and it was passed unanimously.

3. Commissioners had requested an updated contact information sheet

Outcome:

Ms. Campbell passed out an updated member list which needed additional changes. Ms. Campbell will send out updated list with agenda prior to next meeting.

4. The Chair had requested an update on the status on new members.

Outcome:

Ms. Campbell reported that Ms. Butler had been sworn in as the newest Commission and Ms. Thompson will be going before the Commission for Appointments at the next scheduled meeting.

5. Any new businesses from commissioners and/or public
 - a. Ms. Binari-relayed a concern re: the corner of Church Street at Somerville Avenue stating that the corner lip was higher than ½ an inch. Ms. Campbell reported that this had been corrected.
 - b. Ms. Binari asked about access route on the sidewalk of Rose Street and Washington Street. Ms. Campbell reported that the contractor had made an error and it was fixed immediately.
 - c. Ms. Firth stated a concern about furniture i.e. benches, barrels being placed in between bus stops along City Streets. The Commission requested that when members see this to make a list and bring it the next meeting.
 - d. The Commission discussed the next meeting will be held at Capen Ct. on Tuesday, December 14th at Capen Court, 1 Capen Court, Somerville.

