

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

April 2, 2018

Johnson Chambers

6:30 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Crystal Evans, Mary Russo, Meredith Lincoln, Robin Torpey,
Lynn Vaillancourt

ALSO PRESENT: Kristen Zechello, ADA Coordinator

MINUTES: Motion to approve March 5, 2018 meeting minutes by M. Lincoln
and seconded C. Evans (approval vote was unanimous).

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:35 P.M.
- Motion to open R. Torpey, seconded M. Russo, unanimous vote to approve by COD.

Current:

- No phone calls received by ADA Coordinator
- “Group Agreements” and “Action Items” and “Agenda” template were discussed and members provided feedback. The decided agreements were approved by the group and will be used as a guideline moving forward. Motion approved by M. Lincoln and seconded by R. Torpey, unanimous vote to approve by COD.
- New Town Website will be “live” 4/17/18. Kristen to work with Andrew Marron to learn how to update Nextdoor and Facebook.
- Accounting report provided. ADA Coordinator salary is still coming from HP fines. Board reiterated that the first half year salary was voted on and then one additional year by the COD (18 months total). K. Zechello was asked to locate original meeting minutes, as funding should be coming from Town budget beginning July 2017. C. Evans as Treasurer will inquire with E. Spellman, Municipal Finance. L. Vaillancourt motioned to approve C. Evans to inquire with Municipal Finance regarding ADA Coordinator salary, M. Lincoln seconded, unanimous vote to approve by COD.

Old Business: *Update from ADA Coordinator on current projects*

- *Town Buildings*-Update on CPC Funding, Town Hall/OTL project and an Outdoor Classroom space at the Morrison Elementary School.
- *Parks & Recreation*-Updated Open Space & Recreation Plan (as part of the larger Transition plan) shared with Members, Daughraty Gym unisex accessible bathroom complete. Director of Parks & Recreation, Nelson Chin has applied for CPC funding for design fees to renovate Daughraty Gym
- *Dept. of Public Works*- Municipal lot curb cut and crosswalk from the corner of Hall and connecting to the other side of Washington, Capone Brothers are doing the work and it should get underway soon.
- *Transition Planning*- ADA Coordinator continues to work on this plan for the Town with various departments and staff. Most recently, a sidewalk assessment contract with StreetScan has been approved and should get underway within the next few months.

Assessment of ALL sidewalks in town will drive transition planning for pedestrian right of way.

New Business:

- Photo Campaign for accessibility awareness:
 - C. Evans shared an idea for a brochure including “staged” pictures to show access issues in town to assist residents and businesses in understanding the typical barriers to access someone might encounter.
 - C. Evans proposed inviting John McCosh, a photographer, to discuss cost, timeframe at May meeting. L. Vaillancourt proposed possible PSAs for Town Council and BCAM when project videos and photo montages are complete. C. Evans proposed making sandwich boards etc. which we will discuss
- Purchases for COD to make that were discussed:
 - Benches proposed in front of Citizen’s Bank and Rite Aid in South Braintree Square as there are bus stops in front of both buildings. C. Evans proposed CEMUSA benches with shelter. Vote put on hold for further discussion at another meeting. The group discussed Community Preservation Funding and that the COD could potentially apply for funding projects like this one. Member Evans volunteered to lead a sub-committee.
 - Member Evans informed the group that she has worked with several residents to develop a petition regarding pedestrian safety. Named in the petition are Mayor Sullivan, Bob Campbell, Traffic and Safety Committee and the ADA Coordinator.
 - C. Evans will reach out to Bob James, BEMA Director to discuss the potential for Portlight training and report back to the group. Member Evans also discussed her interest in joining BEMA to represent disabled persons in emergency preparedness. This topic was tabled until the May meeting.
- Facetime COD meetings:
 - Discussed enabling members to facetime meetings if they cannot attend. Motioned by M. Lincoln and seconded by L. Vaillancourt with a unanimous vote of all COD members to approve attendance via Facetime. K. Zechello will add this to the COD website, Nextdoor and Facebook.

Information:

- Next Meeting May 7, 2018 6:30pm in Johnson Chambers.

Public Comment (items discussed that were not on the meeting agenda):

- Resident attendee showed commission pictures - Snow not removed in the MBTA Bus Shelters. COD members agreed that snow removal issues and potential solutions should be discussed and advocated for in advance of the next snow season. Member Evans talked about her interactions with DPW director and the discussions around additional funding required for snow removal. Member Evans suggested COD have a more direct and visible presence at Town Council meetings as well as the Traffic and Safety committee meetings and also suggested approaching the Town Council with a request for additional funding for snow removal equipment.

- A resident attendee asked if the schools are trained in emergency preparedness and “lock down” procedures for students with disabilities.
- Resident attendee described her experience in an MBTA practice drill with MEMA and there were many people with disabilities and that there were several deficits or gaps in the protocols that were identified in the drills impacting disabled individuals.
- Member Evans asked if the meetings and events could be made accessible via CART and will share the information with all members.
- Don Summerfield, COD member for the City of Cambridge introduced himself and shared with the Braintree COD that Cambridge was voted the most accessible city in America. Mr. Summerfield read an open letter that was written by the COD to the Cambridge City Council and Cambridge Neighbors regarding our nation’s increased displays of intolerance and reaffirmed their Commission’s commitment to advocate on behalf of all members of the community and urge their elected officials to do the same.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.
 - Motioned by R. Torpey, seconded by L. Vaillancourt.

4/24/2018 (RST & KMZ)