

**BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**Meeting Held Via Zoom**  
**Monday, February 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lynn Vaillancourt, Vice Chairman  
Crystal Evans, Treasurer  
Robin Torpey, Secretary  
Mary Russo

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kristina Ziniti, ADA Coordinator  
Marybeth McGrath, Director of ML & I

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via roll call vote: Lynn Vaillancourt-yes;  
Crystal Evans-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Robin Torpey-yes

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Vaillancourt advised that they have the minutes from the prior meeting, however, because this item was not included on the agenda they are not able to vote on them at this meeting, and will do so at the next meeting.

**Updates:**

Finances: Ms. McGrath advised there is \$50,264.70 in the handicapped parking fine account.

**Sunset Lake Update/Sketch Review:**

Ms. Vaillancourt stated they have received an updated plan from Engineering. She noted there are differences in the plan as compared to a hand drawn plan she had sent to Commission members and Engineering has not provided comments as to why those changes were made. She reviewed the plan differences with the members. There are still four handicapped parking spaces located near the playground and the Commission had requested two spaces in that location and two closer to the gazebo. There is a difference in the proposed entrance near the handicapped parking spaces, as opposed to near the main parking area. The accessible picnic table is located closer to the beach and the Commission had requested a table be available within the playground itself. There are now two entrances, including a gate at the far side near the management building. There is a currently a gate in that location and Engineering did not want to close it.

Ms. McGrath stated the current plan was just received this afternoon and they were not able to speak to Engineering due to the ongoing snowstorm. She indicated Engineering

would like to keep the picnic table closer to the beach, but with connecting pathways to the parking area and the playground. They would like to have the existing gate accessible, with a pathway going all the way around to that location. Ms. Evans stated she went to the park with Rob Millett from BEMA and realized that when BEMA loads their trailer it is in the location of the four proposed handicapped spots and this may create a problem. Caterers also use this area for parking when there are concerts at the lake. Ms. Vaillancourt stated they would need input from Parks and Recreation regarding their preference for use of these spaces. She polled the Commission members on their preferences and splitting the spaces in two locations was preferred.

Ms. Evans asked if there has been any change with fencing at the playground. Ms. McGrath indicated there is still no fencing proposed. Ms. Evans expressed safety concern with the proposed parking if the playground is not fenced. Ms. Torpey asked if a partial fence or barrier could be installed near the parking area. Ms. Russo stated she is in favor of separating the parking spaces, with spaces near the current entrance, and that some form of fencing would improve safety in that area. The layout of the spaces was discussed to bring the actual parking spots away from the entrance of the park. Ms. Torpey suggested that if a fence is not an option that a traffic calming barrier, as they have at Stop & Shop, be put in that area. Ms. Vaillancourt confirmed with members that they prefer the main entrance to the playground be located exactly where it is on the present drawing.

Ms. Vaillancourt reviewed the location for the accessible picnic table. Members were in agreement they would prefer to have the picnic table located on the playground side of the park. The members were in agreement with the location of the pathways proposed on the plan. Ms. Evans recommended that one of the benches be made accessible. Discussion was held on the type of surface for the pathways. The plan indicated asphalt where previously it had been stone dust, so clarification is needed. Discussion was held on the width of the pathways and Ms. Evans recommended 5 feet, or at a minimum areas where they are 5 feet to allow safe passage.

Ms. Torpey asked if there are any grants available to assist with this project. Ms. McGrath stated that Ms. Ziniti is always pursuing grants, however, there is nothing available right now due to lack of revenue as a result of COVID-19.

**Other:**

Ms. McGrath indicated she will have Engineering attend a future meeting, in March or April, to discuss the updates to South Braintree Square.

Ms. Evans asked that the results of the 2018 Street Scan be made available at a future meeting.

Ms. Torpey asked if any progress has been made on additional members for the Commission. Ms. McGrath stated Mayor Kokoros is aware that there are positions open and she continues to remind him.

Ms. Evans asked if public comment would be allowed. Ms. McGrath indicated they can only allow public comment if it is on the agenda. Ms. McGrath stated if anyone has something they would like to discuss with the Commission they can send an email and the Commission has the option of putting it on the agenda.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion by Robin Torpey to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 7:35 p.m.  
Motion seconded by Mary Russo. The motion passed by a roll call vote:  
Lynn Vaillancourt-yes; Crystal Evans-yes; Mary Russo-yes; Robin Torpey-yes*