

**BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
**Fletcher Hall Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, Braintree MA**  
**Monday, June 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lynn Vaillancourt, Vice Chairman  
Mary Russo, Member  
Crystal Evans-Pradhan, Treasurer

**NOT PRESENT:** Meredith Lincoln, Chairman  
Robin Torpey, Secretary

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

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Vaillancourt at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of April 1, 2019 were reviewed. Ms. Evans-Pradhan suggested one amendment.

**Motion By:** Mary Russo to approve the meeting minutes of April 1, 2019 as amended.

**Second By:** Crystal Evans-Pradhan.

The motion passed by a 3-0-0 vote.

**Review Action Items from Prior Meeting:**

1. Benches in South Braintree Square: Ms. Ziniti stated the benches have been ordered. There is no timeline for delivery at this time. Once the benches and picnic table arrive a bench and picnic table will be installed near Southside Tavern, a bench will be installed in front of Nails and Spa, and a bench will be installed in the small park near Tiger Home Inspection. The brick area in this location will be made flush with stone dust.
2. Sound amplification system for public meeting rooms: Ms. Ziniti stated the amplification system has been installed in Fletcher Hall, Cahill Auditorium and Johnson Meeting room. The hardware, such as headsets and microphones, is in the health office. This work was completed on May 3. She thanked Andrew Marron for facilitating this project. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt asked if Mr. Marron has any further information regarding communications for meetings. Ms. McGrath stated he is scheduled to come before the Commission in July for further discussion. Ms. Ziniti stated there are plaques for each meeting room informing people that this equipment is available if needed. Ms. Evans-Pradhan

asked if there is Braille on the signs. It was determined that these were signs provided by the sound company and there is no Braille. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated this is something they can look at in the future.

3. Accessibility photo campaign: Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated that this item has been tabled several times due to absence of members. She stated the original idea was they wanted to have monthly informational posts in the newspaper. She asked for recommendations of six to ten ideas to start the process.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan suggested parking into the access aisles of handicapped spaces; van versus auto parking, as people park cars in the van spaces, limiting access for vans; placement of trash barrels on sidewalks; shopping carts on sidewalks at shopping plazas. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt suggested placement of basketball hoops in neighborhoods. Discussion was held on these items.

Ms. McGrath stated this is an educational campaign and she could bring the proposal forward to the Mayor's office. Discussion was held about fireworks and their effect on individuals with PTSD and other disabilities. Ms. Russo stated these are illegal and she feels this happens too frequently. Ms. Ziniti stated since the Fourth of July is fast approaching she could put together a public service announcement for the town website on this topic.

4. Tactile plates in South Braintree Square: Ms. Ziniti advised that all the tactile plates have been replaced by the DPW. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated the City of Cambridge is using the metal plates, rather than plastic, and they never have to be replaced because they do not crack. They are more expensive to install but will last longer and be more cost effective. Ms. Ziniti stated she will pass this information along to the DPW.
5. July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration: Vice Chairman Vaillancourt asked if any members want to participate in this event on Saturday, June 29. She stated she will be traveling and unavailable to participate. Ms. McGrath stated they have a banner from last year they can use. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated last year she had a Facebook event for members of the community to march with the Commission. Ms. McGrath stated she could reach out of the Department of Elder Affairs to see if the handicapped van and driver are available.

**Motion By:** Crystal Evans-Pradhan for the Commission on Disabilities to participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

**Second By:** Mary Russo.

The motion passed by a 3-0-0 vote.

Ms. McGrath stated if the van and driver are available the driver will have to be paid so funds will have to be made available by the Commission.

**Motion By:** Crystal Evans-Pradhan for the Commission on Disabilities to approve payment of the cost of the driver/van for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, if available, through the handicapped parking fines account.

**Second By:** Mary Russo.  
The motion passed by a 3-0-0 vote.

Discussion was held about ensuring transportation for disabled participants both to and from the parade route. Ms. Evans-Pradhan volunteered to be the contact person at the end of the route.

**Announcements/Information:**

Ms. Evans-Pradhan raised discussion of the beach chair at Sunset Lake. She stated the banner is faded and needs to be replaced. She also recommended putting a sign on the chair stating it was purchased by the Commission. Ms. Ziniti will research getting this sign and will speak with Chris Griffin from Recreation. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated that people who use the chair are required to have their own attendant with them, not the lifeguard, and she recommended this be added to the sign.

**Public Comment/Discussion:**

Meredith Boericke requested an update on the timeline for installation of the benches in South Braintree Square. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated the benches have been ordered, but they do not have a date as to when they will arrive and be installed.

Karen Cobb asked if the Commission has contacted the Mass Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding an audio sound system/communications. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated the amplification equipment has already been installed and Mr. Marron is researching additional systems which will be discussed at the July meeting.

Karen Cobb stated the photo campaign is a wonderful idea. She recommended using graphic signs for stores asking customers not to place carts in accessible aisles/pathways. She also suggested radio campaigns and newspaper announcements. She stated graphics could also be posted on town and public safety websites. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated in the past they met with managers of various stores and asked for their assistance in controlling the placement of shopping carts. The stores did make an effort to retrieve the carts but it only lasted a short period of time. She stated they are an advisory board only and cannot compel the stores to do anything. Ms. Cobb suggested active participation by the community in the photo campaign, such as the school children. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated they had previously discussed participating in the Farmers' Market and could have children participate at that venue.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan asked if they could put on a future agenda a discussion about methods to let people who cannot attend their meetings still have access, such as using Skype. Ms. McGrath stated this would sync with the July discussion with Mr. Marron.

Meredith Boericke asked for an update on the transition plan and getting more ADA compliance at the schools. Ms. McGrath stated they are working on the transition plan and are awaiting information from StreetScan, who are working on the project. Once this information is uploaded they will move on to approval from the Mayor and Town Council.

Karen Cobb stated the Commission is not posting their meetings in a timely fashion. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated they are required to post their meetings 48 hours in advance, however, they posted this meeting seven days in advance. Ms. Cobb stated their agendas are vague and need more detailed information so the public can decide if they want to attend. Ms. McGrath stated she will review the agenda format with the town solicitor. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated the action items being discussed should be included on the agenda. Ms. Cobb stated they are in violation of open meeting law.

**Motion By:** Mary Russo to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 7:34 p.m.

**Second By:** Crystal Evans-Pradhan.

Unanimously voted.