

BRAINTREE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Fletcher Hall Meeting Room, Town Hall
1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, Braintree MA
Monday, September 9, 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 June 3, 2019 were reviewed.

*Motion made by Crystal Evans-Pradhan to approve the meeting minutes of June 3, 2019.
Motion seconded by Mary Russo. The motion passed by a 3-0-0 vote.*

Status of Commission on Disabilities Chairperson:

Ms. McGrath stated that Meredith Lincoln, Chairperson, has resigned her position with the Commission. The Mayor will now have to determine how to proceed with the organization of the Commission and she is hopeful they will have information by the next meeting. Ms. Evans-Pradhan asked if there are people who have applied for appointment to the Commission. Ms. McGrath stated she will have to check with the Mayor's office for this information.

Project Updates:

Closed Captioning - Ms. Ziniti stated that Andrew Marron will attend either the October or November Commission meeting with an update. He has informed her that the town has a subscription to something called AudioEye, which they will be using for both the town and school websites, which will bring both sites into compliance with the WCAG 2.0 level AA and provide a full suite of accessibility tools.

East Middle School - Ms. McGrath stated that the East Middle School has been undergoing a renovation for approximately one year. Phase 1 and Phase 2A have been completed and a partial certificate of occupancy has been issued. They are progressing

on Phase 2 and are hoping to turn over the auditorium portion in November and the renovated gymnasium in November or December. The entire project is slated to be finished in a year, with the fifth graders coming over to the middle school in the fall of 2020. She believes the fifth grade will be split between East and South Middle Schools. She stated they have done a very nice job and the school is completely accessible.

Harris Playground/Perry Road - Ms. Ziniti stated this is a project that Parks and Engineering have been working on for quite some time. They have met with the neighbors. Due to drainage issues the project had to be redesigned. Equipment has been ordered and will be delivered the week of September 23. It will be installed by the company that did the splash pad at Watson Park and is ADA compliant. There will be stone dust paths to all of the equipment. Mayor Sullivan would like to have a celebration when the park is opened.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan asked what company is providing the equipment. Ms. Ziniti stated she does not know but can get that information. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt asked what the timeline is for completion. Ms. McGrath stated that depends on how far they progress on the site preparation, but the goal is to have it completed this fall. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt asked what type of surface material, aside from the stone dust, is being used. Ms. Ziniti stated she will get that information.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan asked about the status of the new benches in South Braintree Square, as they have yet to be installed. Ms. Ziniti stated she will get a status update.

Review Action Items from Prior Meeting:

1. Sound amplification system for public meeting rooms: Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated Andrew Marron will be attending an upcoming meeting and will provide an update. Ms. Evans-Pradhan confirmed that this was a \$4546.92 expenditure.
2. Wheelchair Carriers: Ms. Evans-Pradhan asked if there is an update on this item. Ms. McGrath stated she has no further information. The police department is definitely not interested. She stated review of this is tied up in legal to ascertain if this equipment can be used on a fire truck. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated that other communities are using this equipment.
3. Accessibility photo campaign: Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated they are holding off on this until they had more members present.
4. Tactile plates in South Braintree Square: Ms. Ziniti stated the information regarding metal plates has been provided to the DPW.
5. July 4th celebration: Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated she was unable to participate in the July 4th celebration this year.

6. **Beach Chair Signage:** Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated that since the season is over they should revisit this issue in February or March. Ms. McGrath asked that the Commission consider a new banner sign. Ms. Evans-Pradhan agreed that sign needed to be replaced, but she has asked for a sign to be installed on the pole by the chair indicating what the chair is for and that it was donated by the Commission on Disabilities.

It was decided to move forward with ordering two signs. One dedication sign indicating the chair was purchased by the Commission on Disabilities and a second sign with the rules of how to use the chair. Ms. McGrath stated they will work on language for the sign and bring it back at the next meeting for discussion. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated the sign should indicate that it is to be used on a first come first served basis, for members of the Braintree community who have physical mobility difficulties, they must have an attendant, the lifeguard cannot be the attendant, any weight restriction if applicable, and once use is completed to return it to the wheelchair pad. Ms. Evans-Pradhan volunteered to prepare a graphic design for the sign, but stated she would need assistance with the wording.

Vice Chairman Vaillancourt stated they have a chair at Houghton's Pond which is kept in a building and users are required to sign up to use it. Ms. McGrath stated they will check with Nelson Chin to see if there is a formal process in place for use of the chair. Ms. Evans-Pradhan recommended including information about what types of medical conditions would prohibit use of the chair. Ms. McGrath suggested they consult with the website of the chair manufacturer for their recommendations.

Announcements/Information:

Massachusetts Office on Disabilities Planning Grant: Ms. Ziniti stated she applied for a municipal planning grant to hopefully update their transition plan. They will hear in December if they were awarded the grant. Vice Chairman Vaillancourt asked if they are awarding multiple grants across the state. Ms. Ziniti stated yes, the project grants can be as high as \$250,000 and the planning grants are lower at \$75,000 or less.

Financial Update: Ms. Evans-Pradhan provided an update on available funds from the accessible parking fine revenues. For the second consecutive year the town removed \$21,736 from Commission funding. She is unsure why this was done, but they deposited \$43,472 back into the Commission's account on April 11, 2019. At the end of the fiscal year the balance in the account was \$42,403.68.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan noted they have had a substantial decrease in parking revenue and she is wondering why. Ms. Ziniti stated she is going to setup a meeting with the new part-time police officer to discuss this. Ms. Evans-Pradhan stated she would like to determine how many tickets have been issued and how many were dismissed. She suspects that perhaps the loss of a town police officer who was very good at enforcing the parking rules may be a contributing factor. She stated she spoke to the town accountant,

who had put the money back, but he had no idea why it was removed. Ms. McGrath stated she will look into this.

Ms. Evans-Pradhan reported that she has a contact person from BEMA who would like to come to a future Commission meeting to discuss emergency preparedness. Ms. McGrath and Ms. Ziniti will set this up.

Next Meeting Date:

Monday, October 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Crystal Evans-Pradhan to adjourn the Commission on Disabilities meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Mary Russo. Unanimously voted.