

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
September 10, 2018
Johnson Chambers
6:30 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Kristen Zechello, ADA Coordinator

MINUTES: June 4, 2018 meeting minutes could not be approved at this meeting as there was not a quorum of attendees. They will be approved at October 1, 2018 meeting provided adequate attendance.

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:45 P.M.
- Member from the public shared proper CART Etiquette: State name, title at the beginning of meeting and speak clearly and one at a time identifying yourself in advance for the CART provider. All members in the meeting introduced themselves and their title.

Current Agenda Items:

- Action steps from prior meeting were discussed and updates reviewed
 - The BCAM charge on BELD cable bills issue is still open. ADA Coordinator will investigate other providers Comcast, Verizon, DirectTV, or other satellite TV etc. to inquire if they also have BELD charges. This item still open.
 - “The Great Fight for Disability Rights” and “Lives Worth Living” have been purchased. Plans will be made to utilize throughout the town and school district for Disability Awareness initiatives. Group can discuss the use of videos outside of the meeting.
 - The wheelchair carriers voted for purchase was discussed and ADA Coordinator reported that BFD would like one carrier for each station (3 in total) for Headquarters, Highlands and East Braintree. Chief O’Brien is supposed to get back to ADA Coordinator on which three vehicle make and model they will be used on so they can be ordered. Need specific detail of which vehicles they’d like the carriers for so they can be ordered. The BPD has not yet responded on how many (if any) carriers they would like. The issue remains open.
 - At this meeting there is no update on possible purchase of benches for South Braintree square at bus stops. This issue still open.
 - C. Evans still needs to talk to Bob James with BEMA about Portlight training previously discussed; this issue is still open.
 - BCAM closed captioning issue is still open. The Mayor’s office is interested and supports the effort to make captioning available for all public programming.
 - John McCosh, photographer is able to participate in the campaign however the cost for his services is unknown. This item is still open. Will revisit this in early spring (February, March 2019)

- BEMA Space evaluation for accessibility is still open. Member Evans recommended that ADA Coordinator reach out to Andrew Marron regarding this open issue.
 - Reach out to Braintree Transportation and BPD regarding Special Education busses being passed while stop signs and flashing lights are engaged. ADA Coordinator recommended collaborating with the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) to address the issue. SEPAC Braintree Administration meeting 9/20/18 at 11:30. M. Lincoln to attend representing the COD and will put a narrative together for this meeting. L. Vaillancourt suggested COD fund for purchasing surveillance cameras for busses.
 - Utility box in South Braintree Square should be more visible to drivers. Mayor's office supportive of implementing a contest for Braintree High School Art students to make drivers more aware of the crosswalk on the other side by choosing a graphic for the box. ADA Coordinator to put together a plan and reach out to Heidi Hurley, Art Director, BPS. M. Lincoln asked if it could be used in other areas in the community and yes it appears it can be used all over. Look out for wheelchairs, feet, white canes, strollers, bicycles and dogs (essentially, a guide dog is leading a pedestrian so drivers should be looking out for this). ADA Coordinator will keep everyone informed.
- Current Budget and Requests for funds discussed:

-HC Parking fines account balance: \$23,091.55 account balance as of 8/31/18

-Administration requested that the COD consider purchasing a sound amplifying system. Pro Sound Service brochure and estimate was distributed. Karen Cobb (member of the public) was asked for comment on the purchase and will share some resources with the group to assist in their decision to fund this for the Town Hall. Ms. Cobb discussed how "looping" systems are more current and effective for sound amplification in the deaf community. Also Ms. Cobb shared that rooms with columns can be challenging. C. Evans recommended getting input from Neil Simpson from the Patriot Ledger, who is deaf for his opinion. M. Lincoln will also reach out to a few contacts she has in the educational arena.

- Previously approved purchases still in progress are:
 - Wheelchair carriers to be purchase for emergency vehicle (Board approved 2-4 carriers), ADA Coordinator still waiting to hear from BPD. BFD would like one purchased for each station (3 in total). Will purchase when BPD responds.

New Business:

- INTERFACE Service going live on 9/16/18. William James College and Town of Braintree collaboration to provide Mental Health referral services for Braintree residents. There were several concerns brought up by the COD members regarding this service. C. Evans commented that most South Shore Mental Health Services aren't accessible. K. Cobb indicated that on the flyer is a toll free number, but no TTY listed, needs to be elevated that services must provide accommodations for the hearing impaired and also

braille for the visually impaired, etc. COD asked for the database to have specific accessibility “flags” to denote the service provided and whether it is accessible.

- Feedback from the PSA, the captioning should have more color contrast, standard is black background with white letters. The music in the background may cause issues for visually impaired persons. Also, the web site and toll free number (and no TTY) were never articulated within the video. L. Vaillancourt shared her excitement about the service and asked that it could be shared on other local stations to reach more. Plans for Town’s website and Twitter sharing for the PSA already.
- Letter of support for Community Preservation application Universal Accessibility project. C. Evans had concerns regarding the lower ramp into the building. The mentioned ramp will be replaced by both a lift and two rebuilt ramps into the first floor of the building. Member Evans would like to actually test a version of the Ascention lift. M. Lincoln mentioned the list of locations where this particular lift could be tested by members. The members will submit a letter of support for the concept

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

- *Town Buildings* – No update at this meeting
- *Parks & Recreation* – Outdoor surfacing concerns are being addressed (i.e, not being installed properly, securely). Two events are scheduled this coming weekend which is challenging and will hopefully be able to be addressed in the future where only one event per day is scheduled so there aren’t conflicts in need for the temporary surfacing.
- *Dept. of Public Works* – See Click fix open items on Pearl St. currently being addressed
- *Transition Planning*
 - The final stages of Town properties’ physical “self-assessment” is just about complete. Sidewalk data including sidewalk slope, cross slope, location of WC ramps and their compliance and where they are needed. StreetScan is putting all the reports together from data collected to develop a comprehensive sidewalk improvement plan.
 - Member Evans asked again if tactile warning strips could be installed in South Braintree Square. Member Evans said that they are available at a cost of \$250 each (not including installation). Member Evans also reported that she texted the Mayor from the meeting requesting same. ADA Coordinator will ask again for the tactile warning strips at next DPW meeting. South Braintree Square is currently being assessed for improvements.
- *Other Miscellaneous*
 - M. Lincoln, Chair attended the regional COD meeting recently and several communities are taking advantage of additional funding of parking enforcement through overtime from their CODs. Members discussed formally requesting the BPD Parking Enforcement staff assist in monitoring accessible parking violations in the upcoming busy shopping months at the many shopping centers including the South Shore Plaza.
 - Utility box in South Braintree Square should be more visible to drivers. Mayor’s office supportive of implementing a contest for Braintree High School Art students to make drivers more aware of the crosswalk on the other side by choosing a

graphic for the box. ADA Coordinator to put together a plan and reach out to Heidi Hurley, Art Director, BPS.

Announcements/Information:

- The Action Items from this meeting will be distributed to all and the next meeting will be on October 1 at 6:30pm in Johnson Chambers.

Public Comment

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.
 - Motioned by M. Lincoln, seconded by L. Vaillancourt.

10/1/2018 (KMZ)