

## **Sudbury Commission on Disability**

Date: October 7, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Remote via Zoom

Members Present: Pat Guthy (Chair) (On the phone and left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.), Kay Bell (Vice-chair), Doug Frey, Jane Kline (Arrived at 7:00 p.m.), Randi Korn, and Lisa Kouchakdjian

Members Absent: Caroline Santangelo

1. Vice-Chair Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. Ms. Bell ran the meeting. Ms. Kouchakdjian will record minutes

2. Public Comment—Linda Faust, 189 Boston Post Rd, Sudbury. Ms. Faust shared that October 15<sup>th</sup> is White Cane Awareness Day.

3. Minutes—The Commission discussed minutes from August 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Frey moved to approve minutes as edited from August 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Guthy seconded the motion.

Ms. Bell—Aye

Mr. Frey—Aye

Ms. Guthy—Aye

Ms. Korn—Aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian—Aye

Motion to approve minutes from August 5<sup>th</sup> passed by roll call vote 5-0.

The Commission discussed minutes from August 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Guthy moved to approve the minutes as edited from August 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Frey seconded the motion.

Ms. Bell—Aye

Mr. Frey—Aye

Ms. Guthy—Aye

Ms. Korn—Aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian—Aye

Motion to approve minutes from August 16<sup>th</sup> passed by roll call vote 5-0.

4. Review of SPS Letter of September 29<sup>th</sup> in response to Commission letter of August 19<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Guthy reported to Commission members that she spoke with Superintendent Crozier to thank him for his support of the Commission's pin project. She also stated that he advised her he had sent a letter in response to the Commission's communication. Ms. Bell read the letter during the meeting. Commission members discussed and reviewed the letter. Ms. Kouchakdjian will draft a response to Mr. Crozier's letter based upon the Commission's discussion for review by the Commission at its next meeting.

5. Updates—**Transportation:** Mr. Frey commented on the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The UBER contract will expire soon. The Transportation Committee approved a new UBER contract. Mr. Frey read the statement on Disability Awareness Month to the Transportation Commission. Much of the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting encompassed preparation for the report to the Select Board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Frey reported a couple of data points: 47% of the Taxi program participants are people with disability; and 29% of participants in the UBER program are people with disability. **Town Manager Touch Base Meeting:** Ms. Guthy reported to the Commission regarding the topics discussed. Disability awareness month including the pins and the cost was discussed. Mr. Hayes said that Ms. Frank could be the liaison from his office to assist with contracts and the payment of bills. The Coolidge Sensitivity Training program, and the Valerie Fletcher presentation was also discussed. Ms. Guthy stated that she tried to get more clarity from Mr. Hayes regarding the role of the COD in the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan process. Ms. Guthy stated she felt there was pushback from Mr. Hayes on this issue. Ms. Bell stated Mr. Hayes would provide updates on the Town website regarding progress on the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Ms. Bell stated that Mr. Hayes was interested in a Municipal Minute with the COD. **Fairbank Community Center Design Team meeting:** Ms. Bell reported to the Commission that she and Ms. Kouchakdjian have taken action in their individual capacity to advocate for Universal Changing Rooms in the new Fairbank Community Center to the Design Team. Ms. Bell shared that a slide show was submitted to the Team. Ms. Kouchakdjian reported that it seems there will be one

universal changing space in the new Fairbank Community Center. Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Bell confirmed that they indicated to the Team that they have been acting on this issue in their individual capacity, and not in their capacity as members of the Commission on Disability.

6. Coolidge Sensitivity Presentation Update—Ms. Korn provided an update to the Commission. She and Ms. Guthy planned the presentation with the Director and Assistant Director of the Coolidge. Dr. Dan Neuman, Executive Director of Disability Services at Lesley University will conduct the presentation. Topics to be discussed include bias around disability, awareness, ADA and the rights to accommodations, and how people with disabilities have the right to these accommodations. They will likely do some break out groups. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

7. Disability Awareness Month—Ms. Kouchakdjian reported to the Commission that Ms. Santangelo and she have been working together to coordinate logistics of the pin project. A consistent statement regarding Disability Awareness Month has been shared with Committees and media. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated there has been a tremendous response from the community. Top requests for pins came from both school districts. Ms. Kouchakdjian stated Commission members have access to a Google doc. that references the disbursement of pins. The Patch did a story on the pin project and there is to be an article in the Town Crier. Pins were donated to the Sudbury Historical Society and will be on sale for the general public to purchase at The Sudbury Historical Center and Museum Gift Shop. All proceeds from the sale of pins will go to the Sudbury Historical Society.

8. Valerie Fletcher Update Presentation—Ms. Bell reported to the Commission that they have the date set, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Mark Thompson is helping with the technical aspects of the presentation. Mr. Thompson will be reaching out to all town staff via email. Ms. Bell has been in touch with Lynn Puorro of Sudbury TV. The event will go out live over Sudbury TV. It is being orchestrated by a presentation and a small panel discussion. There will be a save the date that will go out and then a full flyer which will indicate how to get in and how people can access the event. The event will have ASL interpretation.

Motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$450 towards the utilization of ASL interpreting for the Valerie Fletcher event on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Korn seconded the motion.

Ms. Bell—Aye

Mr. Frey—Aye

Ms. Korn—Aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian—Aye

Motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

9. Discussion Regarding Applicant to the Commission: Ms. Guthy stated she has not been able to connect with Karyn Jones yet, but she will do so as soon as possible.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. Kouchakdjian. Ms. Korn seconded the motion.

Ms. Bell—Aye

Mr. Frey—Aye

Ms. Korn—Aye

Ms. Kouchakdjian—Aye

Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.