

Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 9/20/21 6:30 pm
Location: via Zoom Webinar
Members Present: Kay Bell (KB), Doug Frey (DF) Pat Guthy, Chairperson (PG), Jane Kline (JK), Lisa Kouchakdjian (LK), Caroline Santangelo (CS)
Members Absent: Randi Korn
BOS Liaison Attendee: C Russo (until 7:05 pm)
Public Commenters/Guests:

Open Meeting PG called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. A quorum (at least a majority of 4) was present. DF volunteered to take minutes.

Public Comment: KB as a resident informed the COD that she and LK have looked at nearby town's universal changing room in their swimming facility. They have forwarded their observations, including pictures to the Permanent Building Committee and others in town. KB informed the COD that a similar changing room in the Fairbanks Community Center (FCC) would be useful and beneficial to people with disabilities.

LK as a resident, thanked Kay and stressed this needs to be included in the design phase of the FCC. PG commented that she has asked that the COD have a representative on the FCC planning team and B Barletta responded that the COD will be included in the design phase. PG stated that she communicated that the COD has not tried to get on this committee, even in an advisory role. The COD doesn't want to have a similar experience to the Town Hall project where the COD spent significant time and energy all for naught.

Review of Letter to Town Manager regarding concerns of the COD: PG has reached out to H. Hayes but has not received a response. The August 25th meeting did not happen. PG sent email to H. Hayes asking (1) if the final IHCD Evaluation report has been received. This was her 4th request. The email also asked (2) where do we stand on the application process with the state grants and (3) where do we stand with October as Disability Awareness Month.

We discussed 3 potential letters to send to H Hayes and the Select Board. PG suggested we send letter requesting a 1 on 1 to discuss issues. LK thanked J. Roberts for her support and suggested PG and LK meet with H. Hayes. (J Kline joined meeting at 7 10p). The commission members shared their perspectives on the topic.

PG said she's had 2 sit downs with H. Hayes and they have been congenial but nothing has changed. PG suggested the COD asks for a meeting with the Select Board and H. Hayes to discuss this.

LK made a motion to approve PG and KB to draft an email regarding the matter. CS seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

4. Town Forum Discussion re Master Plan Presentation 10/20/21

PG mentioned the meeting on 10/20/21 to discuss the Master Plan for the town's next 20 years. She has received the full plan. LK said she has been working with the Steering Committee and that she received an email from J. Roberts that she'd be receptive to discussing the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan. Sewataro was cited as an example.

PG pointed out that accessibility was mentioned in many places in the Master Plan and that the Select Board has added ADA compliance as part of the capital Improvement Plan. PG commended the Steering Committee on the importance of accessibility in the planning process and said the information from Jeff Dougan from the MA Office on Disability made a difference in the process.

5. Updates DF provided an update on the Transportation Committee and recapped the comments made by Carmine Gentile. He said Sudbury is viewed as a leader by other local towns, who are asking how we have made progress.

PG talked about Sensitivity Training and that RK has done much of the work. Julia Morgan of the Coolidge property has been receptive to the Training. PG is delighted with the progress of the program.

PG said she was contacted by a resident who is interested in joining the COD and who has grant-writing experience.

COD Bylaws were discussed. KB and LK met as a work group to review bylaws and will attempt to tie them to the MA General laws.

PG mentioned that J. Roberts, as liaison to the DEI effort, approached her to see if the COD could be involved in an advisory capacity.

6. Disability Awareness Month LK and CS met to plan and recommended that pins that show the disability flag. They suggested we distribute pins to town officials, committees and boards and notify local papers. Procurement and distribution of pins was discussed. The hope is to generate interest and dialogue.

LK moved to authorize the payment of approximately \$2,500 plus tax for the purchase of 1,000 pins. KB seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

KB moved to approve a press release prepared by the COD working group. LK seconded and the motion was approved 6-0.

7. Valerie Fletcher Presentation KB reviewed progress to date on the 7p 11/10/21 presentation by Valerie Fletcher of the IHCD. The working group of KB, PG and DF met with B Hadvab who provided input. KB sent email to Valerie to confirm date. The working group has another meeting to discuss details.

Adjournment LK moved to adjourn, PG seconded and the motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm. October 7th will be the next COD meeting.

