



Sudbury Commission on Disability

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 2021

1. Meeting began with a roll call at 6:32 PM. Present: Lisa Kouchakdjian, Kay Bell, Doug Frey, Caroline Santangelo. Absent: Jane Kline, Randi Korn
2. Ms. Bell took the minutes.
3. Public Comment: Jen Roberts, SB Chair and Liaison to the COD, welcomed the new COD officers.
4. REPORTS
 - a. Financials: Ms. Bell shared a spreadsheet showing expenditures and the projected balance in the Handicapped Parking Account. Appended to these minutes. There are 257 pins remaining. 751 were distributed.
 - b. Transportation Committee: Met twice last month. Council on Aging approved \$35,000 to continue taxi and Uber programs through the end of 2021 and several months into 2022. TC is seeking American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) funds to continue programs and to add a Transportation person to be added to the Town staff.
 - c. L-S SEPAC: Had a great educational event, John Crocker of Methuen, presented on the topic of student mental health needs and programs. They are planning a college fair for students with disabilities. Ms. Korn is assisting that effort.
 - d. SPS SEPAC: Will do a teacher appreciation project soon. They have also been invited to contribute to the annual Student Services presentation to the SPS School Committee at their meeting on Monday, 12-08-21.
 - e. Bylaws Subcommittee: Has met as an official Subcommittee once. Revisions are in process and will be brought to the entire Commission when they are further developed.
 - f. Membership Applications: (see item 5.e.)
5. DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION:
 - a. Follow up on Nov. 10 Valerie Fletcher presentation and panel:

Members observed that the event was a significant opening of outreach and dialog. The content was high value and addressing real issues present in Sudbury. The recording is now available for review after some delay. It is getting views by the public – 18 so far. There were 36 Zoom attendees at the event. We might consider the Q & A items to identify high priority issues for a future event. Ms. Kouchakdjian suggested that members return to the recording of the Aug 5, 2020 COD meeting at which Ms. Fletcher laid the groundwork for the Nov 10 event, and to take a look at the materials she shared

including a 27 minute video: The Changing Reality of Disability in America <https://humancentereddesign.org/>. Once members consult these various resources, we may wish to invite Ms. Fletcher for a discussion of next steps. The topic will be on next meeting agenda.

b. Fairbank Community Center Project:

On December 1, 2021 Tom Scarlata of BH&A and Chris Eberly of Compass Project Management kindly made presentations of drawings and information about the Fairbank Community Center Project. Jennifer Pincus attended by telephone on behalf of the Permanent Building Committee (PBC) and provided additional information. Three members of the Commission on Disability (COD) were in attendance along with two members of the public who joined by telephone as well.

The two-hour conversation entailed open and frank sharing of concepts, viewpoints and firsthand experiences that represents a true exchange of ideas among professionals and stakeholders that has the potential to strengthen a design in service to a multifaceted community.

Topics that received discussion were: There is a need for several “roll-in” showers that have no lip or curb. A single universal changing room was questioned as it is likely to result in long waits for those who need one. Installation of a wider than required entrance door seemed helpful, but is a reduction of width compared to the current Senior Center double door entrance; so will that create a bottleneck during high traffic moments? Accessible parking is planned to be close to the entrance and the number of spaces will exceed the minimum required, and there was a suggestion to assure that the van spaces need to accommodate the ramps that a driver in a wheelchair extends to get in and out. Assistive listening systems for the deaf and hearing impaired were discussed. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were discussed, and COD members agreed that the dramatic increase in cost of this project is tied to the global pandemic. They strongly support the use of ARPA funds to restore as many features as possible to the project.

After the report, members discussed the issues from the previous night’s informational meeting.

Mr. Frey made a motion to authorize the Chair to draft a letter on behalf of the COD to express the COD positions on the topics discussed. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Ms. Kouchakdjian, aye. Mr. Frey, aye. Ms. Santangelo, aye. Ms. Bell, aye.

c. Self Evaluation and Transition Plan:

At the monthly check-in meeting with Town Manager Hayes, he stated that at the next Select Board meeting he would deliver information about the status of action on the Self Evaluation and Transition Plan finalized by the Institute for Human Centered Design’s in July. There is a three to five year period in which to address the issues in

that report. He did not have a plan to present an article at May Town Meeting related to that effort.

- d. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission (DEI): advisor appointment; land acknowledgement statement request:

The appointment of an advisor was postponed to the next meeting. The DEI has crafted the land acknowledgement statement and is developing their action plan. At next meeting the statement could be discussed.

- e. Membership Applications and policies:

Karyn Jones reported that she had conversed with Town Manager Hayes and he expects the Select Board to consider approval of her appointment at their meeting on Dec. 7. Leisje Quinto spoke to the members about her reasons for wishing to join the work of the COD and her relevant experience.

Ms. Santangelo made a motion to authorize the Chair to draft a letter to Town Manager Hayes on behalf of the COD to express our endorsement of the application of Ms. Quinto to be appointed to the Commission. Mr. Frey seconded the motion. Ms. Kouchakdjian, aye. Mr. Frey, aye. Ms. Bell, aye. Ms. Santangelo, aye.

- f. Annual Report and building Annual Calendar:

Consideration of this item was postponed to a future meeting.

- g. Collaborating with Scouts to get a USPS stamp made:

Ms. Kouchakdjian has reached out to a contact in the Scouts in Sudbury and awaits a response about the idea of collaborating on this. The process of getting a stamp approved takes a minimum of three years. Ms. Kouchakdjian and Ms. Santangelo are both interested in that and other awareness efforts.

Mr. Frey made a motion to form a Disability Awareness Month Subcommittee including Ms. Santangelo and Ms. Kouchakdjian. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Ms. Kouchakdjian, aye. Mr. Frey, aye. Ms. Bell, aye. Ms. Santangelo, aye.

- 6. APPROVE MINUTES: Minutes for the meeting of 12-01-21 were considered.

Mr. Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of 12-01-21. Ms. Bell seconded the motion.

Ms. Kouchakdjian, aye. Ms. Bell, aye. Mr. Frey, aye. Ms. Santangelo, aye.

- 7. Future Agenda Items

Items that were not closed in the present agenda will carry forward. Building communication with other boards and committees whose work is most important to community members with disabilities, e.g. Park and Recreation, DEI, by inviting

representatives to our meetings or going to theirs to speak to each other may be considered.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Frey made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Santangelo seconded the motion.

Ms. Kouchakdjian, aye. Mr. Frey, aye. Ms. Bell, aye. Ms. Santangelo, aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

[Note: approved January 20, 2022]