

Special Meeting of the Commission on Disability

1. Meeting Called to order at 7:10: Members Attended: Kay Bell, Doug Frey, Jane Kline, Randi Korn, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo
2. Minutes Recorder Randi Korn
3. Public comment- none
4. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Reorganization as result of resignation of Chair Pat Guthy

Pat Guthy withdrawal leaves us with no chair

Consider a reorg of COD with new Chair and Vice Chair

Doug Frey suggested Kay

Lisa Kouchakdjian motion to appoint chair K. Bell

Caroline Santangelo seconded the motion

Kay Bell accepted her willingness to serve

Expression of gratefulness from COD

Call the question- all voted aye

Next step who can take the position of Vice Chair- who has willingness –

Randi Korn suggested Lisa Kouchakdjian-

Lisa Kouchakdjian said she would be willing to take this on

Caroline Santangelo makes a motion to appoint Lisa Kouchakdjian as Vice Chair

Kay Bell seconds the motion

Open for comments-

Positive comments at Lisa's capabilities and COD desire for Lisa to be in the role

Call the question- all voted aye

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Preferences and priorities for spending American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

funds and consider composing a statement to be delivered to the Select Board

- American rescue plan act (ARPA) funding

Town receive 5.9 million and dept are vying for some of the money.

Discussion ensued:

Select board and town manager soliciting feedback- the town has ½ of the money. Select Board has a high level discussion to assess what is appropriate use of the money.

Discussed the flash vote the town issued and included brief info and thoughts about ARPA money – discussion has widened to include more town members

Kay Bell shared the ARPA plan with funding objectives Treasure.gov quick reference ARPA public health, lost funding for public sector, lost revenue, guide ; covid impact, premium pay for essential workers, water sewer, broadband

Suggestions included:

- Lisa Kouchakdjian suggested to focus on essential workers town social worker/MH/nurses, schools
- The food pantry and to update space,
- Enhanced transportation for people with disabilities (40% of people who use transportation are people with disabilities.)
- People with disabilities often have medical and financial concerns these things speak to our mission.
- Can Sudbury use the ARPA \$\$ to offset the increased costs of building?
- Suggestion to make a list of items that speak to our mission and present to Select Board.
- Social isolation problem for older population- support staff and programming?

Peg Espinola Council on Aging - joined the meeting at 7:50 and made a proposal that COVID has limited work at the community center- Asked for things to be put back in that aligns with the community center. Also supportive of Bethany Havdad getting more support.

Select board and town manager to collate the suggestions looking for overlap and compile the requests into something cohesive.

Lisa Kouchakdjian -suggests Kay Bell draft and send a letter to Select Board and Town Manager- important issues for the town to consider in regard to the ARPA money including: Social worker, nursing, transportation, mental health support, COA/community center building- retrieving what has been cut, sidewalks/accessible/recreation spaces.

Lisa Kouchakdjian made a motion to authorize Kay draft the letter as discussed with regard to ARPA funds and send the letter to the town manager and to sign for the COD

Doug Frey seconded

All voted aye

Future agenda items

Question from the project management team of the community center to meet with members of the commission to show us the design plan and demo the features. Tom Scarlata would like us to see the design plans in person and has asked if at least part of COD could attend.

Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo, Randi Korn, Doug Frey, Jane Kline and Kay Bell all interested in attending in person with precautions.

Tom Scarlata brought in to discuss scheduling- We look at plans on Wed Dec 1 as the 1st choice or Dec 8 as the 2nd choice. Tom will check his calendar as well.

Kay Bell talked about the loss to the group and respect Pat's decision but we would want to recognize Pat for her service.

Kay wants to add agenda thoughts at end of each meeting- Lisa Kouchakdjian suggested partnering with scouts for disability awareness month as an agenda item.

Kay will include continuing items and try to get materials to COD on the weekend before.

Discussion ensued about length of meetings, time of meetings.

Lisa Kouchakdjian made a motion to adjourn

Caroline Santangelo seconded

Roll call all voted aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

[Note: approved January 20, 2022]

