

## **Sudbury Commission on Disability**

Date: February 3, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Remote via Zoom

Members Present: Kay Bell, Karyn Jones, Randi Korn, Lisa Kouchakdjian, Caroline Santangelo

Members Absent: Doug Frey, Jane Kline, Liesje Quinto

### **1. Call To Order**

Kay called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

### **2. Meeting Recorder**

Lisa will record minutes.

### **3. Public Comment**

None.

### **4. DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION:**

#### **a. Bylaws Subcommittee**

Kay provided background regarding the work of the subcommittee. Kay included existing bylaws and the amended version in the packet for Commission members. Kay would like to begin discussing changes to the bylaws at the next meeting. Kay said the intent is to update the Bylaws to reflect how the Commission works.

#### **b. Brain-based Disabilities Subcommittee**

Lisa stated the Subcommittee began a conversation with Valerie Fletcher. Moving forward the Subcommittee will meet another time and brainstorm on its own in preparation for meeting with Valerie again.

#### **c. Disability Awareness Subcommittee**

No report.

#### **d. Self Evaluation and Transition Plan**

Kay shared that we have asked how we will see progress on the process to rectify the items identified in the Self-Evaluation and Transition plan. We have been told that the Self-Evaluation and Transition plan spreadsheet will be used to check off items when completed. She indicated that Mr. Hayes said that Bill Barletta is involved with preparing the spreadsheets and that we should invite Mr. Barletta to one of our meetings. Kay stated that Mr. Barletta is willing to come to one of our meetings and begin a dialogue regarding process of addressing items in the Transition Plan.

#### **e. Fairbank Community Center Project Subcommittee**

The Commission discussed the response from Jennifer Pincus, the project manager of the FCC project to the Commission's proposal for an accessibility statement. As it pertains to this letter, Randi discussed the case involving disparate impact from Los Angeles that addressed unintentional discrimination. Randi suggested language from the letter was concerning, including the dismissive tone of the email, no mention of what constitutes a qualified bidder, and that the email indicates they will be limiting who they will choose as a bidder. Randi proposed that the Commission respond to this email. Randi stated that by meeting minimal ADA standards, we are not supporting inclusion. Lisa made a motion to authorize Randi to respond to the PBC email, and authorize Randi to sign the communication on behalf of the Commission. Caroline seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo -- aye

Peg Espinola, 224 Goodman's Hill Road, provided public comment during this portion of the meeting and requested a copy of the accessibility statement. She will be communicating with the Council on Aging regarding this topic.

## **f. Fire Station Project design development**

Lisa mentioned in watching the recent Permanent Building Commission (PBC) meeting of January 27, 2022, there was a discussion regarding the design of Fire Station 2 and the portion of the building that pertains to the restroom facilities in the bunks. The project manager put up plans that showed totally accessible bathrooms in these areas with a roll in showers, sinks, toilets in both bathrooms. The project manager shared with the PBC that these areas should be accessible as they are open to the public, and that not providing accessible bathrooms would pose a liability to the town. The Commission discussed whether it should take a position regarding the accessibility of the bathrooms at Fire Station 2. Karyn stated that if the bathrooms are not accessible, it may prevent people from working at the fire station. Jane stated that there are different people from the public who will use the fire station, not just fire fighters. Commission members expressed concerns about the bathrooms not being fully accessible. Caroline stated it is systemic discrimination to not make the bathrooms totally accessible. Commission members agreed that someone with a disability could be a fire fighter someday. Randi agreed with Karyn that it was clear from the meeting that there was no significant cost associated with making the bathrooms totally accessible. Randi stated the architect kept stating that this is universal design and that the bathrooms should be accessible.

Kay shared that the PBC's comments indicate biases against people with disabilities and that the PBC needs education and training. She also stated that the PBC did not consider the requirements of Title I and the employment of town staff at the fire station in the design of fire station 2. Motion by Lisa to include in the communication to PBC the issues regarding the design of the fire station. Caroline seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo -- aye

Motion by Lisa to change the name of the Fairbank Community Center Subcommittee to the Capital Projects Subcommittee. Seconded by Kay. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0 each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo -- aye

## **5. LIAISON REPORTS and OTHER REPORTS:**

### **a. Monthly Meeting with Town Manager**

Kay reported that Lisa and she met with the Town Manager. Kay stated we closed the loop on the fact that the Commission on Disability does not appear in the town-by-laws and that that is okay as the Commission on Disability was voted at Town Meeting. The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was also discussed. The most productive piece of the meeting was getting direction from the Town Manager to speak directly with Bill Barletta.

### **b. Transportation Committee**

Kay follows the Transportation Committee meetings. The Committee is seeking funds from a variety of places. The Committee is working on a survey regarding what people want to see in transportation.

### **c. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission**

Karyn stated the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission (DEI) Commission voted to extend its time from May 2022 to November 2022, and also voted the Commission on Disability as an advisory role in the Mission Statement of the DEI Commission.

### **d. Sudbury League of Women Voters' DEI Roundtable event**

Two members of the Commission on Disability attended the LWV event. Karyn shared the importance of our Commission working with the groups that participated in the event.

#### **e. L-S SEPAC and SPS SEPAC**

Lisa shared LS SEPAC is collaborating with Sudbury SEPAC on an Executive Function event. LS SEPAC is also working with LS faculty on a College Fair for Students with Disabilities. Lisa also reported that there is an upcoming transition event for families of rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders for SPS, Lincoln Public and LS families.

Kay reported Sudbury SEPAC holds a social event each month.

#### **f. Membership**

Kay tabled this issue to the next meeting.

#### **g. Bills S. 1629 Accessible MA Act, H.2419 Accessible Workplace MA, H.2420 Adaptable Housing MA testimony**

Kay mentioned these bills concerned the ones that David Correia brought to the Commission. Intention, in part, is to strengthen MAAB Board. Lisa mentioned bringing our legislators to one of our upcoming meetings. The Commission may want to get into a practice of having our legislators attend one of our meetings on a yearly basis. Both State Representative Carmine Gentile and State Senator Jamie Eldridge are supportive of these bills.

#### **6. APPROVE MINUTES: 01-06-22, 01-20-22**

Motion to approve minutes from January 6, 2022 as amended by Lisa. Seconded by Kay. Motion passed 6-0 via roll call vote each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo – aye

Motion to approve minutes from January 20, 2022 as amended by Lisa. Seconded by Randi. Motion passed 6-0 via roll call vote each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo – aye

## **7. Future Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items**

Next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>. Caroline suggests that the first Thursday of every month will be considered our meeting. In the event, we need to change a date, the Commission will discuss that change.

Karyn suggests the accessibility of the Town of Sudbury website as an agenda item. Karyn suggested communicating with Mark Thompson of the town's technology department. Karyn will talk with Mark Thompson and report back at the next meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Caroline at 9:13 p.m. Seconded by Lisa. Motion passed by roll call vote each member stating aye:

Kay Bell – aye

Karyn Jones -- aye

Jane Kline – aye

Randi Korn – aye

Lisa Kouchakdjian -- aye

Caroline Santangelo -- aye