



Sudbury Commission on Disability Annual Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Chair called the virtual meeting to order with roll call at 7:35 PM

Members Present

1. Karyn Jones
2. Liesje Quinto
3. Kay Bell, Chair
4. Jane Kline (joined the meeting at 7:55 PM and left 9:55 PM)

Member Absent

1. Randi Korn

Opening meeting

1. Kay took a roll call of members present and read the standard protocols.
2. Kay will produce minutes for this meeting.
3. No public comment was offered.

Committee, subcommittee, and liaison reports

1. Transportation Committee: Kay reported. They have received funding from the Town for the coming year of operation and are seeking additional grant funding. They have adjusted the eligibility requirements and copays in response to changing conditions and to assure the program will be sustainable.
2. Capital Projects Subcommittee: Kay reported. Met and made draft authorization document. It will be on the next meeting agenda for COD consideration.
3. Transition Plan of July 2021 Subcommittee: First meeting was set for Wednesday, July 27 at 7:30 PM. Liesje, Karyn, and Kay are members. Agenda

will include the authorization document, bringing members up to speed on past work done and invite Sandra Duran, the new Combined Facilities Director, and an open-ended discussion of what the subcommittee wants to do.

4. Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee: Karyn reported. They are seeking new members and are compiling the stories collected so far.
5. SPS Liaison / L-S SEPAC Liaison: Liesje asked for assistance connecting to the co-chairs of the SPS SEPAC. Kay will send a mutual introduction email.
6. Council on Aging: Kay reported. They have some new members. The \$100,000 grant came through for furnishings and audio equipment for the new community center.
7. ARPA request for website accessibility improvements: Kay reported. Mark Thompson has received some of the funds and has contracted for a “site scan” that will identify issues. Kay asked Mark to please keep us posted on developments on getting training in on how to create accessible content.

Discussion / potential action

1. Public Body Checklist - Minutes: Kay went over the main points of requirements for producing and posting meeting minutes. She thanked Karyn for providing minutes from two past meeting. The sense of the commission is to try the process of sending the author of a set of minutes suggested amendments. Karyn asked that corrections must be sent to the author by a certain date in order to incorporate edits. She requests members send her corrections by August 8 for the August 18 meeting.
2. Correspondence from Kathy Gipps of Institute for Human Centered Design: Karyn reported that she has reached out but not yet heard back from Kathy Gipps. Kay reiterated that “Future Agenda Items” will appear as an item at the end of each meeting so continuing items like this one and any other items members wish to bring to the group can be incorporated into future meetings.
3. Goals for the coming year:
Karyn introduced the idea of submitting a COD warrant article. An idea is for the tree house pavilion at Liberty Ledge to get an accessible route to the ramp and build an area with a patio surface. Children’s activities are held there, and

a funding source would likely be Community Preservation funds. Their cycle for proposals closes around the end of September and if we spent this year developing such a project along with the various entities involved a proposal could be ready for September 2023.

Kay suggested this would need to be viewed in the context of the entire community's needs such as including seniors who would like to enjoy activities at the large pavilion at Liberty Ledge, and need an accessible parking lot and accessible route to the pavilion. Karyn described an outdoor patio for outdoor activities on an accessible surface near the Tree House that doesn't exist now. Liesje and others suggested that both would be good. Karyn indicated that by calling Sewataro staff one can be permitted to use parking space near to the Tree House.

Discussion ensued about the pursuit of a specific project for a single location by submitting a warrant article versus collaborating with the town on the Transition Plan to target problems identified and implementing remedies using a strategy of prioritization. Liesje asked what has been done in this first year of the Transition Plan. Kay and Jane cited things the COD has worked on (universal changing rooms and other design issues for the Fairbank Community Center, design issues on the fire station project, Disability Awareness month outreach, the Brain-Based Disability education event) Kay noted the COD had pursued working with town administration on the Transition Plan since July 2021 and that when Town Manager Hayes submitted a warrant article to get funds to begin work on the Transition Plan and the COD offered endorsement, and he finally agreed to a collaboration with the COD and other stakeholders.

Karyn suggests that on the year calendar, in January, any member give a presentation on a project that could possibly be made into a warrant article. Then members could vote on which idea they want to work on.

Kay asked for the focus to move to expressing broad goals for the coming year.

- Create a warrant article for the 2024 Town Meeting
 - Provide disability awareness and visibility activities in October. (Kay described the flag-pin and information sharing to committees done October 2021.)
 - Pursue the creation of a Transition Plan Team/working group including the COD and other Town stakeholders to address and prioritize
 - Bring disability education events to the community
 - Continue to monitor capital projects
 - Make a presentation to the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce
4. Karyn expressed concern that a general goal needs to have more specifics to make strides to reaching the goal. Karyn will meet with Goodnow Library next week to discuss ideas they may have for Disability Awareness for October and bring the ideas back to the COD. Jane explained her understanding that members can gather information on behalf of the COD to bring in, but are not authorized to speak on behalf of the COD until a vote on a topic is taken. She shared that the library has a display case near the entrance with good potential for a display about the COD's history.
5. Karyn listed thoughts she will share with Goodnow and others added thoughts:
- Book end in children's section on books about kids with disability, also in the teen section
 - 3-D printer projects that are preprogrammed to create small items for adaptive functions – like a pop-top can pull or zipper pull; then donate to folks who need them, perhaps to the Senior Center
 - Incorporate books on inclusive play into story times during October
 - Screen reader: create a training video about that and other adaptive tools available in the library
 - Author reading of book written about inclusive play or disabilities with a collection of mobility devices and other adaptive equipment for children to explore, ask questions about, and learn about
 - Adults could be involved in the 3-D printer project and/or do a book club
 - The COD could be partnering with Goodnow Library; perhaps the COD could devote funds to support elements of the effort

- Jane suggested for adults that buying books to donate about disability is good, but if they do a display of book they already have in circulation and movies/DVD as well
 - Karyn wondered if there might be devices to include in their library of things - like a reacher, as a simple thing to borrow to try out
 - Liesje reminded us about the glass display case
 - Karyn explained that the Sudbury Cooperative Preschool received a grant from Sudbury Foundation to create inclusive and diverse programs and have been considering creating something for disability awareness and inclusive play for parents: How to talk to children about children with disabilities and to incorporate social thinking into play activities.
 - Liesje mentioned a teenager living nearby who has written and published a book about kids with disabilities that keeps selling out at The Silver Unicorn Bookstore.
 - Could an activity with seniors be a conversational group targeted at sharing stories (like the DEI story collection project) related to their experiences with disability? Kay will send contact info for the program coordinator. It could be done for any time, not necessarily confined to October.
6. Karyn said that there has been feedback about an article on the COD webpage saying that it is inaccurate. She requested that the article be taken down. Kay replied that if there are specific details that need correction she is eager to make those corrections. Kay stated that the COD has repeatedly authorized her to post information within the purview of the COD's mandate. She has also asked in recent months if members wanted to develop protocols or guidelines for posting to the web page or facebook page, but members did not take that up. Karyn was unaware that articles were being posted without a vote of the members.

Motion: Karyn made a motion to remove the article titled "Sharing Playgrounds during Summer." Liesje seconded the motion.
Further discussion ensued.

7. Kay pointed out that there are many articles that have been posted to our page over the years and none of them have gone through this process and related to this article she has received no specific information about what error there might be. Karyn explained that she has been told by the Acting Town Manager that she, Karyn, needs to talk to people to fact check the article. She feels that until it is fact checked the appearance of the article with a warning about inaccurate information looks unprofessional.
8. Kay reiterated that the COD does not currently have a policy or protocol in place to have each article approved by the entire commission, but if we want to make that a protocol, we can do that.
9. Karyn related that the Acting Town Manager told her that if an article mentions a department or group, we have to contact that group and make sure that information is correct. Both Karyn and Kay said they will fact check the information in the article. Kay questioned why she was not directly contacted as the author if someone felt there is an error.
10. Kay suggested an amendment to the original motion: That the author of the article speak to the Acting Town Manager, get direction as to where there is a potential error, follow through to get the accurate information, and correct the article with errata, and keep it posted. The proposed amendment to the motion received no second.
11. Liesje spoke in favor of taking the article down, and that Karyn and/or Kay do fact checking and in our next meeting we review and decide if it will be posted again, and that at our August meeting have an agenda item to develop a protocol for our web-based communication.

Question called:

1. Liesje Quinto: Aye.
2. Karyn Jones: Aye
3. Kay Bell: No.

Vote: 2-1. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Janie Dretler, Select Board: Since the topic just discussed was not on the agenda, procedurally you should retract the whole thing and put it on a future agenda. Kay explained that the topic arose unexpectedly and so recently there was not time to issue a revised agenda and, like an open meeting procedure issue that arose very close to the start of our previous meeting, we actually are allowed to consider such an unexpected topic as described in the disclaimer published with all of our agendas.

Close Meeting

1. Future Meeting Dates: Thu, Aug 18, 7:30 PM; beyond that is tabled to next meeting
2. Future Agenda Items – Those items discussed at this meeting that were not concluded will be on the next agenda including
 - Disability Awareness Month
 - Procedure/protocol for posting on the web
 - Goals discussion
 - Minutes
 - Correspondence from Kathy Gipps

Adjournment

Motion: Liesje made a motion to adjourn. Karyn seconded the motion.

1. Karyn Jones: Aye.
2. Liesje Quinto: Aye.
3. Kay Bell: Aye.

Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kay Bell.