

**Sudbury Commission on Disability
Minutes of September 28, 2022**

Virtual Meeting. All attendees present remotely.

Members Present: Kay Bell (Chair), Karyn Jones (Vice-Chair), Pat Brown, Cameron LaHaise, Liesje Quinto

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau, Joint Facilities Director Sandra Duran

Kay Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order by roll call at 7:41 pm, and reviewed the protocols under which remote meetings are conducted. She then welcomed Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau and Joint Facilities Manager Sandra Duran as panelists and asked Ms. Duran to present three Municipal ADA Improvement Grant applications she (Duran) will file on behalf of the town. Pat Brown will produce minutes for this meeting.

Ms. Duran briefly outlined the grant application process. The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) is accepting grant applications until September 30, 2022, for projects that remove barriers to participation. Using the town's ADA self-assessment and transition plan, she identified three projects for which Sudbury can apply for funding under this program and is finalizing the grant application information for these projects under a very tight deadline.

She then presented the following three projects to the COD using forms (dated September 28, attached) updated from those available as Supporting Materials (dated September 23):

Draft 1 submitted September 29, 2022 (Pat Brown) Approved October 6, 2022 1
as amended.

1) Accessible Water Fountain Installation in Town Buildings and PreK-8 Schools

This request is for a \$201,000 grant to provide and install twenty-three ADA compliant Hi-Low drinking fountains to provide universal access to drinking water in public spaces. Ms. Duran cited with gratitude the Sudbury Master Plan as her source of information quantifying the positive impact (number of affected people) this project would have on our community. She described specifics of how she estimated both project completion times and labor costs to arrive at the project total.

2) Accessible Pathways to Athletic Fields, Accessible Bench and Picnic Seating Areas on the grounds of town and PreK-8 Schools

This request is for \$636,752 in grant funding to provide pathways and benches and is “based upon existing conditions”—that is, addressing all the deficiencies identified in the transition plan and providing all benches and paths in their current locations.

- a) The range in the completion date (18 months to 24 months after award) is weather dependent. Kay Bell mentioned that a project receiving an ADA grant must be completed within one year. Ms. Duran will follow up.
- b) Ms. Duran requested the project as described in the town’s ADA assessment. The cost estimates in that assessment did not include restrictions explicitly required for municipal construction—that labor be compensated at prevailing wage, for example. Municipal construction requirements add substantially to the expect project cost as reflected in the proposal.

c) While grants are capped at \$250,000, even a grant only partly covering this project would be helpful.

3) Assisted Listening Devices in Town and PreK-8 School Meeting Rooms and Auditoriums

The contractor is still scoping costs on this request. Ms. Duran will have numbers for the grant applications due on Friday. The proposal is for WiFi Assisted Listening Devices (ALDs) with reusable headsets available for those requiring them, based upon balancing various considerations including cost, functionality (encryption available for sensitive conversations) and general utility.

Kay asked why WiFi ALDs were chosen over T-loop technology. Ms. Duran indicated that the vendor's recommendation was the wi-fi. Kay would like some follow up discussion of the pros and cons of the various options as the field is complicated and she would like users with hearing loss to be asked about their preferences.

The COD discussed the individual projects as they were brought forward, with strong support and gratitude for all the work that had gone into defining the projects and compiling information for the grant proposals in the limited time available.

The COD then voted separately on their support for the three grant proposals. These votes were:

1. To support the Accessible Water Fountain project.

Motion by Karyn Jones, second by Pat Brown.

Unanimous support by roll call vote.

2. To support Accessible Pathways to Athletic Fields, Accessible Bench and Picnic Seating Areas

Motion by Cam LaHaise, second by Karyn Jones.

Unanimous support by roll call vote.

3. To support Assisted Listening Devices in Town and PreK-8 School Meeting Rooms and Auditoriums

Motion by Karyn Jones, second by Liesje Quinto.

Unanimous support by roll call vote.

Ms. Duran indicated that letters of support for these three projects submitted to the MOD from the COD would be welcome—the SPS School Committee and the Town Manager are also submitting letters. The wording of these letters had to be approved by the COD at this meeting—that is, the remainder of this meeting was to be devoted to editing these documents. The COD thanked both the Town Manager and the Joint Facilities Director, and they were encouraged to leave the meeting about 9 pm, although they remained available by email.

The COD crafted letters of recommendation for each of the three grant proposals.

Kay Bell, Karyn Jones, and Liesje Quinto comprise the Transition Plan Subcommittee of the COD. They were updated by the Town Manager and Joint Facilities Manager on September 23. Each had drafted a letter of support for one project to be signed by the COD Chair on behalf of the entire Commission. Following a spirited session of live editing, the COD approved language for these letters that reflects our support of these initiatives. Each of the document owners will email the approved language to the Town Manager and Joint Facilities Director.

The COD voted to accept the language in the three letters of support for the three grant applications as approved at this meeting, with formatting and errors corrected, for submission in support of the MOD ADA grant applications.

Draft 1 submitted September 29, 2022 (Pat Brown) Approved October 6, 2022 4
as amended.

Moved by Liesje Quinto, seconded by Karyn Jones.

Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Karyn Jones will update the COD on events for Disability Awareness Month (October) at the October 6 COD meeting. We will miss Jane Kline, who resigned from the COD by email on September 27.

Motion to adjourn made by Pat Brown, seconded by Liesje Quinto, **unanimously approved by roll call vote at 10:27.**