



Sudbury Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Open Meeting

Kay Bell, Chair, read remote meeting protocols and called the virtual meeting to order with roll call at 7:32 PM

Members Present

1. Pat Brown
2. Cameron LaHaise
3. Kay Bell (Chair)

Absent

Liesje Quinto

1. No public comment was offered.
2. Cam LaHaise was made Zoom co-host.
3. Kay will produce minutes for the meeting.

Minutes

No minutes were available for consideration.

Kay reported that the monthly check-in meeting with the Interim Town Manager had scheduling problems so did not occur. Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 16 to follow up on the question of a Commission on Disability (COD) fundraising, formation of a Transition Plan Advisory group and posting obligations, and open seat available.

Kay reported that we have four sets of pending subcommittee minutes.

Reports

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission advisory member seat to which Karyn Jones was appointed is now vacant, as Karyn recently submitted her resignation from the COD.

Kay reported that the Transportation Committee has been successful in receiving a large regional grant, close to \$250,000 [info update: \$222,336], for continuing the subsidized GoSudbury Taxi program and to share those resources work with three other towns to develop a regional approach to the program. Sudbury has also been granted Technical Assistance from the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, our Metropolitan Planning Organization, for analysis of possible fixed route development. Long-time volunteer, Alice Sapienza, has been instrumental in securing these resources.

Kay represented the COD at the Sudbury for Racial and Social Justice Committee Equity Summit was well attended by about thirty community groups. It seems to be a launch of a broad networking effort and will create a clearinghouse of information about resources and events related to racial and social justice issues.

Kay reported that the Sudbury Foundation's Doing Good Fair was also well-attended. The COD table sported a plethora of leaflets and other print material she had collected about resources and programs for people with disabilities, and many people stopped to chat.

Discussion / Potential Action Items

1. **Membership:** With the withdrawal of Karyn Jones from the COD we have five open seats. In the past recruitment was ongoing via a notice on the COD town web page and informal networking of members. Kay will consult with Interim Town Manager Bilodeau regarding recruitment of applicants at the November check-in.
2. **Sudbury Youth Soccer Association (SYSA), The Outreach Program for Soccer (TOPSoccer):** Karyn Jones, TOPSoccer leader, and Steve O'Keefe, Executive Director of SYSA and operator of an adaptive ski program, presented details of the pilot TOPSoccer program that ran with the support from SYSA for six weeks in the fall. They elaborated on the distinction between inclusive and adaptive sports and the many benefits of the adaptive approach for athletes with certain disabilities that are not possible in inclusive programs for those athletes. They explained that there is an older high school buddy athlete/coach for each participant and the preparation and supervision the buddies receive. They told of the ripple effect benefits to the families of the athletes as parents can enjoy watching their child play like other families do, and they and the siblings of the athletes can commune together in a stigma free environment with a lot of common understanding. Karyn requested that the COD consider writing a letter of support to be included in an application to the Sudbury Foundation for one-time funds to procure start up equipment and other resources to make the program ongoing and expanding. They are seeking \$11,500.

Motion: Cam made a motion for the COD write a letter of support for the grant application by TOPSoccer to the Sudbury Foundation . Pat seconded the motion.

1. Pat Brown: Aye
2. Cam LaHaise: Aye
3. Kay Bell: Yes.

Vote: 3-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Karyn suggested that if the COD could approve a letter at the December meeting it would work for their deadline. Cam volunteered to draft a letter for working on and approving.

3. **Understanding Our Differences collaboration:** An invoice for yard signs to promote the Together We Play event came in for \$200. We voted a budget of up to \$1700 and that is the only invoice received so far, so that I signed and passed on for payment. We also received an invoice for American Sign Language interpreting for the Unlearning Ableism virtual presentation in the amount of \$202.50. We voted a budget of up to \$500 for ASL services, so that I also signed and passed on for payment.
4. **Disability Etiquette and Pin Project:** Kay reported that all seventeen committees were appreciative of the short message about how to interact with people with three different disabilities. About 40 International Disability Awareness Flag pins were delivered to various committee members. There are 200 plus a few more pins remaining for future sharing.
5. **Goals:** As a process, Cam suggests that between now and the December meeting members read the MA Office on Disability (MOD) section on COD goals and the accrued list of things members have expressed interest in pursuing. Pat pointed out that the large number of possibilities will require prioritization. Kay agreed and suggested including the general annual calendar. At the December 1 meeting Cam will facilitate discussion of goals.

Close Meeting

1. Review action items:
 - Kay send three items to member for goals discussion
 - Kay seek pending subcommittee minutes
 - Kay will request the Municipal ADA Improvement Grant draft to add to minutes.
 - Kay will send Pat a compilation of all agenda items to date for 2022 and last year's annual report as material for putting together a draft annual report for consideration
 - Kay will seek financial information for the annual report

Adjournment

Motion: Pat made a motion to adjourn. Cam seconded the motion.

1. Pat Brown: Aye.
2. Cam LaHaise: Aye.
3. Kay Bell: Aye.

Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kay Bell.