

Sudbury Commission of Disability (COD) Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2023 - Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Kathleen Bell (Chair), Cameron LaHaise (Vice Chair), Pat Brown, Liesje Quinto

Absent: None

Kay Bell called the meeting to order at 7:32pm and reviewed the protocols under which remote meetings are conducted and took a roll call.

Single issue special meeting to discuss the Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment and Associated Design Funding

Discussion/Potential Action Items

Proposed Town Warrant Article

Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment and Associated Design Funding

Jeff Levine, Chair of the Council on Aging, joined the meeting and gave history on the Fairbank building project.

- Notes from Jeff Levine's Presentation: \$500K estimated for AV approximately a year and a half ago.
- \$300K was approved in 2021 Town Meeting for AV plus the \$50K from the original budget = \$350K. Which would allow it to meet the minimum requirements of the ADA.
- Jeff Levine notes that the plans were insufficient for the senior center portion of the building.
- Jeff expressed a need to outfit all of the rooms to have assisted listening capability, enhanced audio systems (speakers and mics in the ceiling) - so that anyone in the room, regardless of where they are seated can here and be heard. Also wanted interactive capabilities through virtual programming.
- Only room 1 has all of the above AV, on the Park and Rec side of the building.
- The \$350K is the baseline and what the Council on Aging wants is the enhanced version (see above). Not sure exactly how much the enhanced version will cost, need to wait until the bids go out.
- A resident has requested \$200K and the Select Board reviewed. (See updated article).
- Select Board discussion, could not come to a decision, postponed a final decision for a special mtg on Monday (1/30/23) about submitting the article directly.
- Council on Aging approved submitting the article, only if the Select Board chooses not to submit the article. However, believes that the Select Board would be the appropriate body to submit as they represent the entire town.

- Kay read the warrant article out loud.
- Kay asked if commissioners had questions for Jeff.
- Pat Brown asked about interactions. Jeff shared that he has spoken with Jennifer Pincus, Chris Everly, and Sandra Duran. All members of the project team.
- From Jeff: the user groups: Park and Rec, Senior Center/Council on Aging, School Department were not consulted as PBC and contractors made changes (value engineering/cost cutting measures) to designs. Not enough consultation with residents, or representatives of the residents.
- Jeff explained that this is a resident building, to be used by residents of ALL ages. This makes this building unique in Sudbury.
- Desire for anyone who comes into a room in the community center can be comfortable and able to interact. To be able to hear and be heard.
- Council on Aging believes that this is so critical that residents should decide at Town Meeting.

COD Member Discussion

- Liesje discussed other instances of COD advocating for inclusivity during the years of designing the Fairbanks Community Center.
- Kay stated that she has been doing research on AV needs and has been involved and participating as a citizen, not as a representative of the COD.
- Cameron asked, what are the motions we are considering? What are our options?
- The COD Members discussed the warrant specifically.
- Pat expressed that she would like to hear from the joint facilities manager, PBC, and learn which meetings we should review.
- Cameron stated she would support this, no matter who were to bring it forward.
- In response to the suggestion that the COD could submit this article, Pat expressed concerns about the short timeline before town warrants are due on Jan 31.
- Kay asked the liaison to the COD from the Select Board, Jennifer Roberts- when a warrant article is submitted, is there a mechanism for a committee or a citizen, to submit text to be printed in the town warrant.
- Jennifer does not recall seeing another group write something in support in the article. Other mechanisms to show support - stand up at town meeting, for example.
- COD discussion about who would be best to submit the article (Select Board or Council on Aging).
- Kay recognizes Dan Carty, 15 Stonebrook Rd to give public comment.
- Dan asks why the COD supported this last year (article from 2022) when it was underfunded and part 2, will we be doing this again next year?
- All COD members responded
- Pat stressed that she would like to hear from the facilities manager and/or project manager to learn how the solutions, currently funded, would address the need.
- Kay recognized Robert May, 98 Maynard Farm Rd to give public comment. This is to put a placeholder and there is an expectation that there will be much more research, data gathered, more discussion
- Kay recognized Dan Carty to give public comment, he did not feel like the COD answered his question.

Original Motion: Kay made the motion to authorize the chair of the COD to write a letter to the select board in support of them submitting the article to the town meeting warrant. The COD recognizes the need expressed in the article [Article XX: Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment and Associated Design Funding].

After the original motion, Cam made a suggestion to add to the motion that we (the COD) support the funding.

Motion: Cameron made the motion to amend the original motion by adding: The COD recognizes the need expressed in the article [Article XX: Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment and Associated Design Funding].

Kay Bell seconded the motion.

1. Pat Brown: No
2. Cam LaHaise: Yes
3. Liesje Quinto: Yes
3. Kay Bell: Yes

Vote: 3-1; 3 in favor and 1 opposed

Pat had asked if this vote (above) implies that we support the funding. Cameron and Kay responded, yes.

Motion: Kay made the motion to authorize the chair of the COD to write a letter to the select board in support of them submitting the article to the town meeting warrant. The COD recognizes the need expressed in the article [Article XX: Fairbank Community Center Audio-Visual Equipment and Associated Design Funding].

Liesje seconded the motion.

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

Vote: 4-0; 4 in favor, motion carried unanimously

Pat asks - that in the future - when a special meeting is called, that the objective of the meeting is clearly stated.

Motion to adjourn by Liesje Quinto, seconded by Cameron LaHaise. Unanimously approved by roll call at 9:33pm.

Minutes Submitted by Cameron LaHaise

