

Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) Minutes of June 1, 2023

Virtual Meeting. All attendees present remotely.

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

Members Absent: None.

Kay Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order by roll call at 7:30 pm. Kay clarified that she and Pat are legacy members whose terms have expired but who continue to serve under the policy included in the packet. Pat Brown will draft minutes for this meeting. Kay reviewed the protocols under which remote meetings are conducted.

Public Comment: None.

Updates: Kay reported speaking with Chief Nix about handicapped parking fines and enforcement. The Chief indicated he would be happy to attend a COD meeting where he can discuss ideas about accessible parking with the Commission. She also described the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Kay reported that COD, in collaboration with the Sudbury Wayland Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable, had hosted the Survivorship and Disability Panel on May 23, which was very informative. Each event had about two dozen attendees.

Minutes: After considerable time incorporating changes into the draft April 13, 2023, COD minutes, the Commission agreed to review these minutes offline and forward suggested changes solely to the drafter, Cam LaHaise. This method avoids serial deliberation and respects the Open Meeting Law. Cam will submit an edited version of the minutes incorporating these changes for approval a later COD meeting.

The May 4, 2023, COD minutes were accepted as amended (Cam moved; Liesje second) by roll call vote.

Bylaws: Kay explained that the COD Bylaws (the version approved by the COD on March 3, 2022, and included in the supporting materials) as described by the Mass Office on Disability (MOD) are operating bylaws that govern how the COD operates but that the COD does not appear in the Town's General Bylaws at this time. Per these bylaws, any amendment to the COD bylaws must be read at a public meeting prior to the meeting at which the amendment is brought to a vote; it is a two-step process. Amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds vote.

In Article I (Name and Purpose) Section 2 of the March 3, 2022, COD bylaws, the second sentence reads: *The Commission works independently and in collaboration with other Town boards and departments to eliminate barriers and to assist people living with disabilities in becoming empowered to advocate for themselves.*

Liesje proposed that this sentence be changed, as it suggests that people with disabilities need the COD to help empower

them to advocate on their own behalf. This is not her experience, and she feels that phrase is ableist.

After discussion it was moved (Pat) and seconded (Cam) to delete the second sentence in Article I (Name and Purpose) Section 2 as shown above. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote. This serves as the first public reading of the amendment.

To fulfill the requirements of amending the bylaws, this amendment must be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote at a future meeting.

Public Comment: Elizabeth Struck, 655 Boston Post Road, Apt. 1104, saw the COD's willingness to review its bylaws and use more empowering language as a positive move.

Bylaws (cont): The COD reviewed the bylaws extensively but proposed no further amendments. Discussion of the duties of officers may occur under the "Goals" in the future. Kay noted that review of the bylaws annually is required, and it is also allowed for bylaws to be amended at any time by following the two-step procedure.

Ongoing/future agenda items: Finances, Income and Parking will be discussed in the future; supporting materials in packet.

The website has been updated with the most recent change requests.

The COD agreed that the old (2007?) [yes, 2007] version of the COD bylaws should be archived, so they remain available, but the current bylaws are displayed on the “Documents” page.

Liesje reported that Sandra Duran is working with the IT department to create a dashboard for the ADA transition plan, which would display ongoing updates and allow users to track progress online. There’s a lot of excitement about this(!)

There are multiple applications for membership on the COD outstanding.

COD Representative to the HPP Working Group: The COD received the document showing the Housing Production Plan (HPP) timeline. Liesje volunteered to be the (single) representative on the HPP Working Group.

Motion that the COD Chair write a letter to the Town Manager and Planning Department to inform them that COD has voted to have Liesje Quinto represent COD on the Housing Production Plan Working Group. (Liesje moved, Cam seconded.) Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Family Pride Day: Kay had volunteered to serve at the June 11 event at the COD table. She wanted to confirm that she could serve regardless of her membership status on June 11. Cheryl Wallace had previously said she would serve with Kay at this

event, and she confirmed that she would. Kay proposed adding a sensory-friendly space at the table. She also proposed spending \$30 to purchase some items to distribute.

Cam moved to authorize Kay Bell to spend up to \$30 on giveaways for the Family Pride Day. Kay seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Chamber of Commerce: Last year the COD spent \$100 for membership in the Chamber of Commerce. Kay stated that the Town Manager has chosen not to move her application for reappointment to COD forward. She has been the person from COD going to Chamber of Commerce events. She wanted COD to know that the membership was expiring and that COD could renew it, but this was not required. No action is necessary at this meeting; this is informational only.

Goals discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

Election of Officers: Liesje Quinto nominated Cam LaHaise for Chair; Pat Brown seconded. Cam was elected COD Chair for the 2023-2024 term unanimously by roll call vote. Cam LaHaise nominated Liesje Quinto for Vice-Chair; Pat Brown seconded. Liesje was elected COD Vice-Chair for the 2023-2024 term unanimously by roll call vote.

Next Meeting: Cam confirmed that she will schedule the next COD meeting by Doodle poll over the summer. Kay mentioned

putting the COD Bylaw amendment on the agenda for a future meeting. Kay also mentioned that COD has items—banners, the Disability Awareness Pins, and other items that are housed currently in her home —and the COD should consider where they should be kept.

Kay received many thanks from many people for her service to the COD and specifically as Chair, including a statement by Jennifer Roberts, COD liaison from the Select Board.

Motion to adjourn made by Kay Bell, seconded by Liesje Quinto, **unanimously approved by roll call vote at 9:16 pm.**