

Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2023 Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Cameron Lahaise (Chair), Liesje Quinto (Vice Chair), Elizabeth Struck, Karyn Jones and Cheryl Wallace

Cameron Lahaise called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM, reviewed the protocols under which remote meetings are conducted, delegated minute taking to Cheryl Wallace, and took a roll call.

Agenda Items

Cameron Lahaise asked for public comment. There was no response.

Updates and Actions

1 - Updates on the Sudbury Transportation Committee and the Sudbury Housing Production Plan.

Elizabeth Struck read background, attended a few meetings and brought us up to date on the current public transit available. Cameron and Bessie spoke of bringing Dan into a future meeting. Liesje asked if a survey has been done for people using the program and if the COD's interest in being involved. Cheryl listed the information available via Go Sudbury and the updated information. Questionnaires were suggested and the COD offered to help with making it happen.

Liesje updated the group on the Housing Production Plan. Future panels and focus groups were planned. Affordable housing and diversity were mentioned. A lack of a laundromat in Sudbury was brought up as a quality of life issue.

2 - Disability Awareness and Resources for October. National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Down Syndrome Awareness Month. White Cane Awareness Month was brought up and a promotional video was watched.

3- Liesje went over the financials for the COD. Outgoing money was discussed and a lack of incoming money was highlighted. Projected ways of bringing in income beyond Handicapped Parking Revenue (which is zero) and deciding to limit sponsoring future external requests. Former chair, Kay Bell spoke about what monies have been spent in the past for ASL interpreters. Karyn Jones put forth a motion to stop external financial expenditures and it was seconded and passed by vote. A letter was to be drafted for the MOD about COD income structure as well as state guidelines for COD income.

4 - There was discussion of the Fall Fest cancellation and rescheduling for the spring of 2024. Parks and Recreation is to be contacted for potential accessible activities at the Fest.

5 - Karyn Jones provided a power point presentation of the upcoming Accessible Trick-or -Treat event on Halloween, October 31st. Flyers, signs, expenses, preparations and fundraising were addressed. A vote was taken to allocate \$1500 from the fundraising budget to the Trick -Or-treat event. The motion passed unanimously. A press release was shared and set for future approval. A motion was made to approve the release after town approval and edits. The motion passed.

6 - The potential training event by Lisa Drennan of Merge - Diverse Abilities Inclusion Consulting was discussed and put forward. An agreement was made to put forward motion to get an exact quote and bring Ms. Drennan to Sudbury in 2024 as a paid speaker. The motion passed unanimously.

7 - Future agenda items noted were Lisa Drennan. the chief of police and COD financials. The next COD meeting date was decided for November 8th. Cameron LaHaise put forth a motion to approve the September 6th, 2023 minutes as provided by Bessie Struck. The motion passed with one abstention from Liesje Quinto, as she was not present. Liesje Quinto provided the minutes for the April 6th, 2023. Cameron LaHaise put forward motion to approve the April 6th, 2023 minutes and it passed unanimously.

Karyn Jones put forward the idea to ask for a grant from the MOD for a self transition plan in January 2024.

Cameron LaHaise motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM. The motion passed unanimously.