

Sudbury Commission on Disability (COD) Meeting Minutes

January 22nd, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Cameron Lahaise (Chair), Liesje Quinto (Vice Chair), and Cheryl Wallace
Absent - Karyn Jones
Guest - Lisa North

Cameron Lahaise called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, reviewed the protocols under which remote meetings are conducted, delegated minute taking to Cheryl Wallace, and took a roll call.

Agenda Items

1. Previous minutes by Karyn Jones from the December 4th meeting were presented and edits were made. Cheryl motioned to approve, and Liesje seconded. A roll call vote was made and was unanimous.

2. Cheryl updated the group with Transportation Committee news. The funding and extension of the program was discussed, potential changes to the hospital shuttle, and the future involvement of the MWRTA in grant writing in partnership.

3. Lisa North was moved in to the meeting to interview as a new potential COD member. She introduced herself and each current member introduced themselves, including their backgrounds with the COD, and reasons for joining. Lisa gave her introduction and reasons for interest in joining. Prepared questions were asked concerning interest, time investment, training willingness. building relationships, and background experience advocating for the disabled.

4. Discussion of Lisa North being approved as a candidate and a motion to put her forward as a COD member was made by Cheryl, and the motion was seconded by Liesje. A roll call vote was made and was unanimous.

Cameron announced a letter would be written to town manager Andy Sheehan with our recommendation.

5. Liesje spoke of her meeting with the Accessible Trick or Treat committee and asked for more clarity between the COD and the team. Marketing, advertising and funding specifically. Potentially moving up fundraising dates to fit fiscal scheduling and donation reminders would be helpful. A "Save the Date" reminder to donors was discussed. Sign toppers were discussed as a better option for displaying donor names. T-shirts for volunteers and donors were discussed. Transparency of where money donated might go to within the COD, including speakers and events. Thank you notes to sponsors were discussed and division of responsibility within the COD to hand write these notes were decided. Discussion of the use of Discord was brought up by Cheryl to manage the Accessible Trick or Treat was postulated. Thank you cards with the COD logo were discussed with Cheryl to do the research online and Liesje to do the ordering was discussed and decided.

6. The COD Annual Report was discussed. The changing of the wording of one sentence was made and all agreed to the change. Liesje motioned to approve the Annual Report and Cheryl seconded. A roll call vote was made and was unanimous. An agreement to use DocuSign to sign the report was made and agreed upon.

7. Liesje suggested a future speaker for a COD event might be Emily Ladau who had written a book called "Demystifying Disability" and did speaking engagements. Cameron suggested getting quotes on speaker fees of any potential candidates. The importance of said speaker being someone who spoke to the entirety of the disabled community.

8. Future agenda items were listed. Meeting with Sudbury Valley Trustees members to discuss the All Persons Walkway as well as the next Accessible Trick or Treat event. Cheryl asked in there was a listing for 2025 Sudbury town events anywhere and found no online resources. Liesje recommended reaching out to Dementia Friendly Sudbury as potential speakers or trainings. Cameron decided to hold off on writing senators Eldrich and Gentie until after January 19th.

Cameron LaHaise motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM and it was seconded by Cheryl. A roll call vote was made and the motion passed

unanimously.