

Approved February 10, 2022

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Thursday, January 13, 2022

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Mary Devlin, Jerry Friedman, Stelios Gragoudas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Phil Kongtcheu and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Gary Dmytryk, Valerie Hammond, and Jackie Jones

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes for the December meeting was seconded and passed.

Presentation by the Disabled Persons Protection Commission (DPPC):

- See attached presentation, "Reporting Abuse and Neglect of Persons with Disabilities" by Sarah Nechamen, Outreach and Training Specialist. (Content warning: Descriptions of abuse of people with disabilities).

Introduction of CCPD's New Police Liaison:

- Deputy Superintendent John Boyle introduced himself as CCPD's new police liaison.
- Deputy Boyle is the commanding officer of night operations (11:00 PM – 7:00 AM). He also commands the Harvard and Central Square walking initiative, in which police officers patrol those areas.
- He reported working closely with the Harvard and MIT police departments.
- The Police Department has a Community Relations Unit that is specially trained to work with elderly affairs and mental health issues.
- The Department also has a full-time psychiatrist and social workers on staff.
- He invited members to reach out to him at jboyle@cambridgepolice.org with any questions or concerns.

CCPD Meeting Expectations:

- Kate said that the Commission has in the past developed meeting expectations and wondered if current members may be interested in doing so, as well. Members will take some time to think about what they want to set as meeting expectations.

Public Works Update:

- Jerry Friedman said that DPW has submitted their budgets to City Council for the next fiscal year. They are requesting a significant increase in their budget for miscellaneous sidewalk work. Those funds are used to identify and repair sidewalks, curb ramps, and driveways that fall outside of the major capital projects like Inman Square or River Street reconstruction. DPW plans to use the increase in funds for smaller projects in order to clear a backlog of repair requests. Jerry encouraged folks to continue reporting sidewalk accessibility issues via SeeClickFix or to Rachel and Kate.

Chair's Report:

- Phil reported on a project he is doing with his company in conjunction with the IRS, assisting people with disabilities in Cambridge with filing their taxes.

New Business:

- A few members expressed interest in having Deputy Superintendent John Boyle attend every CCPD meeting.

- Staff can also arrange for officers from the Police Department's Community Relations Unit and Youth divisions to present at a CCPD meeting.
- There was interest in learning more about how the Police Department communicates with people with disabilities, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing and those with disabilities that affect their speech.
- Avril said that she has done a lot of research into The Ride and has discovered that they are no longer able to pick up passengers in some specific locations because of bus and/or separated bike lanes. She also reported that ridership has increased significantly in the past few years.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman