

Approved 9/19/13

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, August 8, 2013

51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:41pm

Present:

Members: Holly Aldrich, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, Kara Falise, Alissa Land, JoAnn Haas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Naomi Pinson.

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Miriam Cooper, Avner Fink, and Bet MacArthur.

Guests: Nasim Khan, Department of Mental Health; Deepti Nijhawan, Cambridge Resident; and Kathy Podgers, Cambridge Resident.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for August 8, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from June 13, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Preparing for Climate Change in Cambridge
- Cambridge Climate Change Study
- Don't Give Up, Be Persistent: Lessons from Disability Mentoring Day at City Hall

Minutes: A motion approve the June 13, 2013 minutes was seconded and passed.

Guest Speaker: Jen Lawrence, Sustainability Planner in the Community Development Department, provided a presentation on the City's Climate Change Planning. Detailed information may be found online at www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/climateandenergy/climatechangeplanning.aspx

Chair's Report: Michael Muehe gave the Chair's Report on behalf of Miriam Cooper, who was unable to make the meeting because of illness. CCPD will be holding a Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) as its 2013 Annual October Disability Employment event. The details are still being worked out, but the goal is to have six to ten Cambridge residents with disabilities each shadow a City employee and receive one-on-one mentoring. The day will also likely include workshops with different speakers and presentations. Mr. Muehe reported being in touch with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission about partnering with them to identify participants.

The planning committee includes Miriam Cooper, JoAnn Haas and Nicole Horton-Stimpson. Kara Falise will reach out to City staff about being mentors.

Public Works Update: Kara Falise reported on ongoing construction projects. Western Avenue and Huron A projects are underway, and Huron B between Fresh Pond Parkway and Concord Avenue will be going to construction in next four weeks. DPW has expanded efforts to reach out to every member of the affected areas by holding neighborhood cookouts, providing an option other than public meetings for residents to hear about construction projects.

Ms. Falise also noted that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Longfellow Bridge rehabilitation project has started and that there will be 25 weekends in the next three to four years in which the Red Line will shut down between Kendall Square and Park Street Station. There will be a bus shuttle between these

stations during the shutdowns. Cyclist and pedestrian access will remain open at all times. For more information, visit the project's website at www.massdot.state.ma.us/charlesriverbridges/LongfellowBridge.aspx

Sidewalk Update: JoAnn Haas reported that the updated bicycle regulations have now been added to the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department's (TPT) website and now reflect that parking bicycles to street signs designating disability parking spaces is prohibited.

Ms. Haas is working on planning the annual snow and ice removal meeting to discuss sidewalk accessibility during the winter months. [Editor's note: the meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 3 from 12:30-2pm in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway].

She also discussed the possibility of working with TROMP and Green Streets Initiative to hold a pothole-reporting event before the first snow storm so DPW may fill them in.

Lastly, she reported speaking during public comment period at the July 29 City Council meeting regarding bicycle traffic. She said that she thanked the Police Department for all of their efforts in improving enforcement and said that she would like to see more education about the importance of cyclists following traffic rules.

Film Series Update: In Bet MacArthur's absence, Michael Muehe reported that the last Disability Reframed screening of *Music Within* at the Cambridge Citywide Senior Center was very successful. The Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities is checking into the possibility of hosting the next screening at the Abilities Expo, which will be held at the Boston Exposition and Convention Center Friday, September 20-Sunday, September 22.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that TPT received a shipment of pushbutton integrated accessible pedestrian signals and that he will be meeting with TPT to determine locations where they will be installed.

Mr. Muehe reminded those in attendance that the September CCPD meeting has been moved to September 19.

He said that the new Ways2Go travel training program has launched (see www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforadults/ccpd/Ways2Go.aspx for more information), and that the deadline for submissions to be considered for October-November issue of the AccessLetter is noon on Friday, September 13. [Editor's note: email ccpd@cambridgema.gov with articles or calendar events to be considered for publication]

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported that Deputy Jack Albert is now CCPD's Police Department liaison. She also spoke about the upcoming Abilities Expo Boston, noting that CCPD will have an informational booth and needs volunteers to staff the booth. Several members offered to help. For more information about this three-day event, see www.abilitiesexpo.com/boston.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator