

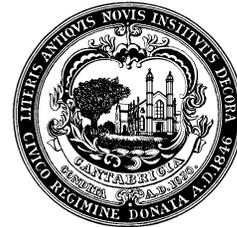
City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Chair

The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday May 9, at 5:30 p.m.

JoAnn Haas
Secretary

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

NOTE: CCPD meetings are audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

Miriam Cooper
Sandy Durmaskin
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Alissa Land
Bet MacArthur
Naomi Pinson
Kathy Watkins

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

Joanna Berton Martinez
Katie Ashwill
Oscar Anderson
Pro Bono Associates

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of Minutes for April 11 | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Public Works Update
<i>Five-Year Plan</i> | 20 min. | Kathy Watkins &
Owen O’Riordan |
| 5. Chair’s Report
<i>Planning for October Employment Event
Nominations & Elections</i> | 10 min. | Elizabeth Dean-Clower |
| 6. Nominations & Elections for Officer Positions | 10 min. | CCPD Board |
| 7. Police Community Liaison Update | 10 min. | Chris Burke |
| 8. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min. | JoAnn Haas |
| 9. Accessible Pedestrian Signals | 10 min. | Miriam Cooper |
| 10. Executive Director’s Report | 5 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 11. Project Coordinator’s Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 12. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 13. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 14. New Business | 2 min. | |

This is a scent-free meeting. In consideration of individuals with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from wearing perfume, after-shave or any other scented products to our meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cambridge, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.



Approved 6/13/13

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, May 9, 2013

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:39pm

Present:

Members: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Alissa Land, JoAnn Haas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Naomi Pinson, and Kathy Watkins.

Alternate: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Sandy Durmaskin and Bet MacArthur

Guests: Chris Burke, Cambridge Police; Jonathan Lazar, Radcliff Institute; Susan Manning, Cambridge Resident; and Owen O’Riordan, Department of Public Works.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for May 9, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from April 14, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- DPW’s Five Year Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction Plan
- Invitation from the Disability Law Center, the Disability Policy Consortium, and the MA Office on Disability for members of Commissions on Disability to attend a June 7, 2013 forum
- Information on accessible pedestrian signals

Minutes: A motion approve the April 14, 2013 minutes was seconded and passed.

Public Works Update: Kathy Watkins reported on DPW’s Five Year Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction Plan. Please see

<www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/engineering/aboutengineering/fiveyearplandescription> for details.

Chair’s Report:

Elizabeth Dean-Clower reminded members that it is time to start planning for CCPD’s annual October Disability Employment Month Event.

She also reported that a large number of applications had been received for the two CCPD Board vacancies, and that the application review sub-committee hopes to convene soon.

Ms. Dean-Clower opened the floor to nominations for the Chair and Secretary positions. Nominations and election results were as follows:

For Chair

- Naomi Pinson nominated Miriam Cooper, and Alissa Land seconded the nomination. Ms. Cooper accepted the nomination.

- Alissa Land nominated Naomi Pinson, who respectfully declined the nomination before it could be seconded.
- An election was held, and Miriam Cooper was elected as Chair with six votes in favor, zero in opposition and zero abstentions.

For Secretary

- JoAnn Haas nominated Naomi Pinson, who respectfully declined the nomination.
- JoAnn Haas nominated Alissa Land, who respectfully declined the nomination.
- As there were no further nominations, the Secretary position will remain vacant until another vote can be taken.

Police Community Liaison Update:

Superintendent Chris Burke reported that the Police Department had been very busy in weeks following the tragic events of April. He reported that the plan is still in place for increased traffic enforcement with a focus on pedestrian safety. The electronic sign boards in North Cambridge displaying reminders to cyclists to follow traffic rules had to be redeployed because of the recent events, but the plan is still on track to increase enforcement in that area.

Sidewalk Update: JoAnn Haas reported that the revised bicycle parking regulations have still not been posted online by the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department.

Nicole Horton-Stimpson suggested creating a public service announcement to educate people about the importance of not locking bicycle to street poles that hold signage designating disability parking spaces, and about the revised bicycle parking regulations prohibiting it.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that *Distracted* the play has started at Central Square Theater and that several performances will have post-show discussions about attention deficit disorder.

He also said that the Disability Law Center, the Disability Policy Consortium and the Massachusetts Office on Disability are hosting a forum on June 7 in Marlborough for members of Commissions on Disability.

Mr. Muehe reported that a graduate student at Boston University, Katie Ashwill, will be volunteering for CCPD over the summer, working on accessibility issues.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported that the annual River Festival will be held on June 1, and passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to staff the CCPD table.

She said that she and Bet MacArthur met with Kristen McCosh and Jesse Holm of the Boston Commission to discuss the Disability Reframed Community Film Series. She reported that Ms. McCosh was planning to check into the availability of a portable audio description kit for film screenings, which would make them more accessible to people who are blind or partially sighted.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals: Miriam Cooper said that the Americans with Disabilities Act requires programs to be readily accessible and usable to persons with disabilities (PWD) and that this includes providing pedestrian signals that are accessible to individuals who are blind or partially sighted. She explained that the current pedestrian signals used in Cambridge are called pedhead-mounted signals because there is a speaker mounted on top of the pedestrian signal. This type of signal emits cowbell and chirp-like tones to indicate when pedestrian cross signal is on. However, these signals have many problems: they provide no indication of the direction of travel the signal is indicating; there is no indication of whether or not

there is a push button or where the push button is located; the tones can be either too loud or too quiet, either making it difficult to hear traffic noise or difficult to hear the signal; if intersections are close together, it is easy to confuse the audible signal with that of another intersection and cross at the wrong time; and they are not accessible to people who are deaf-blind.

The Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), while not yet adopted, call for pushbutton integrated accessible pedestrian signals (APS). These signals have speakers located at the push button that emit a pushbutton locator tone, indicating where to find the pushbutton. They also have a tactile arrow indicating the direction of travel; both audible and vibrotactile walk indications; and automatic volume adjustment depending on the level of noise in the area. The vibrotactile indication, in which the pushbutton vibrates when it's safe to cross, make the signals accessible to people who are both deaf and blind.

Ms. Cooper said that once PROWAG is adopted, all APS will have to be pushbutton integrated signals. She noted that DPW's Five Year Plan includes the installation of these APS in the reconstruction of intersection, but suggested that CCPD encourage the Traffic Department to pick up the pace installing these signals.

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission would like to ask the Traffic Department to place a focus on replacing the pedhead-mounted pedestrian signals with the new pushbutton integrated pedestrian signals as well as to install new pushbutton integrated signals on a prioritized schedule in other locations.

This motion was passed by members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator