

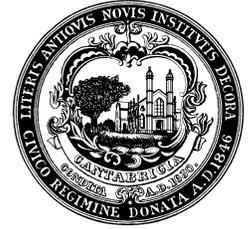
City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Miriam Cooper
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, September 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Holly Aldrich
Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Sandy Durmaskin
Kara Falise
Avner Fink
JoAnn Haas
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Alissa Land
Bet MacArthur
Naomi Pinson

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.

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 August 8 | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Guest Speaker: Jeff Parenti
<i>Accessible Pedestrian Signals</i> | 20 min. | |
| 5. Chair's Report
<i>October Disability Mentoring Day</i> | 20 min. | Miriam Cooper |
| 6. Police Community Liaison Update | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 7. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min. | JoAnn Haas |
| 8. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 9. Executive Director's Report
<i>New Accessibility Symbol
2014 Arts/Access Grant Proposal</i> | 10 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 10. Project Coordinator's Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 11. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 12. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 13. 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.



DRAFT

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, September 19, 2013

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:48pm

Present:

Members: Holly Aldrich, Elizabeth Dean-Clover, Miriam Cooper, Sandy Durmaskin, Avner Fink, JoAnn Haas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Bet MacArthur and Naomi Pinson.

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Kara Falise and Alissa Land.

Guests: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert, Cambridge Police Department; Sassy Outwater, Cambridge Resident; and Jeff Parenti, Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for September 19, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from August 8, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Image of the universal symbol of access next to the new accessibility icon (www.accessibleicon.org)
- CCPD Brochure
- Disability Reframed: A Community Film Series Brochure

Minutes: A motion to approve the August 8, 2013 minutes was seconded and passed.

Guest Speaker: Jeff Parenti of the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation (TPT) discussed new, vibrotactile push button integrated accessible pedestrian signals (APS). He reported that there are 135 regular traffic signals in Cambridge, some of which have an audible signal installed in at least one crosswalk. However, these audible units that have been installed in the past have had limited success; in particular, there have been a lot of noise complaints, as the speakers are mounted about eight feet off the ground. Additionally, it can be very difficult to tell which signal is emitting the audible cross signal. Mr. Parenti said that TPT is now moving towards the new APS, where the speaker is mounted directly on to the pole about 3 feet above the ground. These new APS contain a vibrotactile arrow pointing in the direction of the crosswalk on the push button. Additionally, the button housing emits a locator tone indicating its location to users who are blind or partially sighted. When the walk signal comes on, the button will vibrate in addition to emitting a designated audible signal indicating that it is safe to cross the street. These units are customizable, allowing for any sound file to be used. TPT has ordered 16 APS for a pilot program to see how they work. In addition, all new construction will contain these APS units and existing old-style APS will be replaced. TPT would like CCPD input on priority locations for the installation of the APS.

Film Series Update: Bet MacArthur reported that the next screening, *The Sessions*, is scheduled for 1-4pm on Saturday, September 21 at the Abilities Expo Boston, with Rachel Tanenhaus as the guest speaker. Following that, there will be a screening of *Silver Linings Playbook* at the Cambridge Main Library on Saturday, November 2.

Kate Thurman reported creating a brochure for the Disability Reframed Film Series.

Chair's Report: Miriam Cooper reported that this year's October Disability Employment Month event will be a Disability Mentoring Day, on which Cambridge residents with disabilities will have the opportunity to

shadow certain City employees for a few hours. A letter will go out to all of the Cambridge Department Heads describing the program and requesting that interested staff sign up to participate. The MA Rehabilitation Commission will recruit the job seekers and assist with placement according to mutual interest.

Ms. Cooper also reported that she is representing CCPD on the Cambridge Transit Advisory Committee, which seeks to make public transportation robust and accessible in Cambridge

Police Community Liaison Update: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert said that the Police Department is increasing enforcement of bicycle traffic rules, particularly around crosswalks. He also reported that the PD is looking into joining a regional bicycle enforcement committee, with more cities and towns starting to enforce bicycle traffic rules.

Sidewalk Update: JoAnn Haas reported scheduling a meeting for Thursday, October 3 from 12:30-2pm to discuss snow removal plans for the upcoming snow season. The meeting will be held in the 4th floor conference room of 344 Broadway and will bring together neighborhood association representatives and public works staff.

Ms. Hass said that it is important to report potholes to DPW before the snow starts. There is an iReport smart phone app for Android and iOS for reporting potholes and missing sidewalk bricks.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe said that the City has a work group that is developing ways to increase access to public restrooms. The group would like to use the new accessibility symbol created by the Accessible Icon Project (www.accessibleicon.org) on signage indicating accessible restrooms. The group asked Mr. Muehe if it would be okay to substitute this icon, a more dynamic stick figure, suggesting forward movement, for the universal symbol of access, which is a static, passive stick figure.

He also reported working with Joanna Berton Martinez on applying for an Arts Council grant to expand on CCPD's PSA project, creating 30 minute episodes on the arts and disability for CCTV's BeLive program.

Sandy Durmaskin and Miriam Cooper volunteered to be part of the work group for this project. The group is meeting on Monday, October 7 at 6pm.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported creating a Facebook page for CCPD, in addition to CCPD's Twitter account. It can be accessed at www.facebook.com/CambCPD. She also reported creating new brochures for CCPD and for the Disability Reframed Film Series.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator