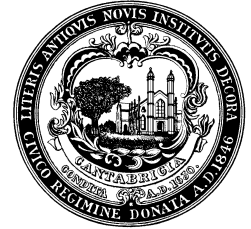


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



Valerie Hammond  
*Interim Chair*

Loring Brinckerhoff  
Avril de Pagter  
Mary Devlin  
Gary Dmytryk  
Jerry Friedman  
Stelios Gragoudas  
Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
Jackie Jones  
Philibert Kongtcheu  
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus  
*Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman  
*Project Coordinator*

**The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM**

## AGENDA

**Please turn OFF your cellphones before the meeting begins. Thank you.**

**NOTE: CCPD meetings may be audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.**

- |  |         |                    |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Introductions<br><i>If needed, alternates named</i>         | 2 min.  |                    |
| 2. Approval of November 14 Minutes                             | 2 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| 3. Announcements   | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / Board |
| 4. Nominations, followed by<br>Elections for Chair & Secretary | 10 min. | CCPD Board         |
| 5. Chair's Report  | 5 min.  | TBD                |
| 6. Update on Accessible Makerspace                             | 15 min. | Phil Kongtcheu     |
| 7. Public Works Update   | 5 min.  | Jerry Friedman     |
| 8. Executive Director's Report                                 | 15 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus   |
| 9. Project Coordinator's Report                                | 5 min.  | Kate Thurman       |
| 10. Public Input   | 3 min.  | general public     |
| 11. Old Business   | 2 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| 12. New Business   | 2 min.  | CCPD Board         |

**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.

**The next CCPD meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12**

Draft

## **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

Minutes for Thursday, February 13, 2020

51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm

### **Present**

**Members:** Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Mary Devlin, Gary Dmytryk, Jerry Friedman, Stelios Gragoudas, Valerie Hammond, Nicole Horton-Simpson, Jackie Jones, Philibert Kongtcheu, and Daniel Stubbs

**Staff:** Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

### **Documents/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from the November 14, 2019 Meeting
- Video “Inclusive Assistive Technology Makerspace” (<https://youtu.be/b3jdbEp38dU>)

### **Minutes:**

A motion to accept the November 14, 2019 minutes was seconded and passed.

### **Nominations & Elections:**

- Rachel noted that our bylaws call for elections in May, so nominations will be solicited, and elections will be held again then. Elections are off-schedule due to our past Chair resigning, then onboarding five new members.
- Valerie withdrew her nominations for Chair and Secretary due to a scheduling conflict with the meetings.
- Phil was nominated for Chair and was unanimously elected as such.
- Gary was nominated for Secretary and was unanimously elected as such.

### **Chair’s Report/Update on Accessible Makerspace:**

- Phil reported that he has been working on creating an accessible makerspace in Cambridge focused on developing assistive technologies. He screened his introductory video, “Inclusive Assistive Technology Makerspace” (<https://youtu.be/b3jdbEp38dU>).
- The makerspace will be located in the Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Apartment building, which is owned by the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) at 150 Erie Street.
- It is not currently operational, as CHA is working on legal issues around providing the space for it. Once the makerspace is operational, it will first open to LBJ residents. Phil is waiting to hear back from CHA.
- Phil hopes to get a sponsorship to fund a staff member for the makerspace. Once the space is approved by CHA on a legal basis, he will work on getting companies to donate equipment. Phil’s company is also providing some funding.

### **Public Works Update:**

- Jerry reported that construction has started in Inman Sq, and will soon be spilling into the heart of the square. It is currently on Springfield St. Let Jerry know of any access issues during construction.
- There are a few concepts posted on DPW’s website of the reconstruction of River St. and Carl Barron Plaza. The plaza will be doubled in size. There are potential issues in walking distances between bus stops and the MBTA station; they are very conscious about walking routes to and from connections

- Budget stuff: 2 year backlog for miscellaneous sidewalk repair. Requesting an additional 2 million for a second contract for additional repair.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

- UD Playground
  - Last public meeting was in December. Being done at an accelerated rate
  - Getting plans together to submit to Dept. of Environmental Protection, as it is built on landfill. Requires lots of tests and approval. Once DEP approves paperwork, it will go out to bid. Hoping for it to be completed by the end of summer, 2021
  - Public art for the playground. Artist with a disability, Dominic. He does murals and paintings, which will be on some of the playground equipment and walls
  - Multi-sensory park – water feature, sensory garden
  - Design school for middle and high schoolers, Nuvu. On history of the site as an industrial site, lots of textures.
  - People of all ages will be able to play on it
  - For parents and caregivers with and without disabilities
  - At Danehy Park next to Briston Arms
  - Three season park, dawn to dusk
  - Design is at 90%
  - Weston and Samson is the design firm. They designed Manino Park, as well.
  - Gary: invite them to a meeting to present the design
- Budget: working with rec and DPW on capital projects. Will be retrofitting other City playground with accessible equipment and surfaces. Pooling money from different sources. Want accessible play throughout the City.
  - Gary: playground in North Cambridge on Mass Ave at Clarendon
  - Jerry: Rogers and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. park will be Tim Toomey Park in East Cambridge
- Will not be at March meeting
- MAAB – former director Thomas Hopkins passed away suddenly in January, 2019. The hiring process has been contentious, but there is now a new ED, Will Joyce, who was their Compliance Officer. The disability advocacy community is happy with this. Will reports to the board rather than Division of Professional Licensure. State Statute requires this
  - In charge of compliance with AAB regs, variances
  - Whenever a variance is applied for in Cambridge, copies are sent to ISD, CCPD and BCIL. We have the option of submitting testimony in support or opposition of an application. Most applications are for renovations rather than new construction
  - PWD can file complaints with the MAAB, who has authoritative jurisdiction over state accessibility code. Can fine entities \$1,000/day until issue is resolved.
  - They meet every other Monday, open to the public. Can give testimony in person
  - Invite Will Joyce to a meeting
  - They are now hiring for his old position, Compliance Officer
  - They receive variance requests from all 351 cities and towns
- Gave TA on variance requests
  - Harvard is very thorough in their applications and often applies for variances due to the historical significance of their buildings
  - Writing a letter of support: gutting apartment complex in Porter Square. Constructing a 2 bd and 3bd accessible unit. CHA property, all affordable units. Code requires all entrances to be accessible, but technically infeasible to do so. All common areas will be accessible, except for

the laundry room, but accessible units have in-unit laundry. Not all the entrances can be ramped. There is a huge shortage of accessible, affordable family housing.

- Variance arguments: technically infeasible or undue expense without substantial benefit to PWD.
- MIT is renovating an area? Looking at creating accessible entrance. Putting in a temporary ramp that will be there for a few years. They wanted to install a steel, grated ramp, which RT opposed because it could be dangerous for people using canes and for service animals. They are taking it back to the drawing board.
- Gave a 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation to PHD on providing accessible outreach to PWD on public health services
- Program at MIT that does outreach to K-12 community in Cambridge. They spoke with RT about ways to be inclusive of PWD in outreach
- Co-presenting on service animals at MCLE with DLC and MCAD on March 2
- 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the ADA is on July 26, 2020. Attended planning meeting for ADA 30 in Boston by Boston COD and BCIL. They will be doing a march and a rally at Copley. Whether or not CCPD is involved depends on how political it gets. Scheduled for July 22.

### **Project Coordinator's Report:**

- Postponing the April meeting by a week, to April 16, due to Passover
- MCDHH training for Communications Managers
- Working with the City on providing CART at more meetings and events
- Continue to work on providing closed captioning for City Council and other meetings
  - Currently prioritizing CC on live streaming
  - City is in a multi-year process of negotiating a new contract with Comcast, which will include providing closed captioning
- Several site visits for polling places and Storefront Improvement Program
  - Graham & Parks School – new ramp
  - Concord Ave Armory
    - Parking
    - Everyone will use the same entrance
    - Gates chained open
  - Please let me know if you notice an access issue at your polling place
    - Encourage you to use the AutoMark machine
- Board Orientation for new members on March 19 from 6:15-7:45PM in our regular meeting room
- Is anyone willing to take minutes at the March meeting? (I'll be recovering from surgery, RT on vacation)

### **Old Business:**

Nicole: minutes that talk about committees that we can send out? Look at notes from Ora G. retreat

### **New Business:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman