

Draft

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

Minutes for Thursday, January 14, 2021

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:39 pm

### **Present**

**Members:** Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril de Pagter, 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

**Guest Speakers:** Cass Chroust, Landscape Architect, Weston & Sampson; Adam Corbeil, Director of Recreation, City of Cambridge; Cheri Ruane, Landscape Architect, Weston & Sampson; and Paul Ryder, Project Manager of the Universal Design Playground

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

- Agenda
- Minutes from the December 12, 2020 Meeting
- Danehy Park: Universal Playground presentation (see attached)

### **Minutes:**

A motion to accept the December 12 minutes was seconded and unanimously passed.

### **Presentation on Universal Design Playground at Danehy Park:**

Cass and Cheri, both landscape architects with Weston & Sampson, presented on the universal design playground at Danehy Park, along with City staff Adam and project manager Paul. See attached presentation, Danehy Park: Universal Design Playground

### Highlights included:

- Construction is underway, with completion expected in Fall, 2021
- Danehy Park was built on top of a landfill that closed in 1970, so numerous toxicology studies have been done to be sure it's safe. Additionally, building on top of a former landfill significantly increased costs.
- The playground design committee met with a focus group of stakeholders numerous times and held two public meetings before finalizing the design of the playground. There was a lot of input from residents and the plan has been thoroughly vetted.
- The playground is entirely enclosed and has accessible gates.
- Design elements of the playground include:
  - Vehicular drop-off and parking nearby
  - Multiple entrances
  - Signage
  - An accessible loop around the whole playground
  - A designated calmer space
  - Several different play zones, including those geared towards different age groups
  - Spin zones
  - Swinging zones
  - A sensory hilltop

- Mixed use space
- Sensory walk zone with different materials, sound experience, music features, different textures.
- An accessible “kiln” play structure, as the site used to be a clay pit mine, with the clay used for Cambridge and Boston brick
- Additionally, as there used to be trains used to load up the bricks, there will be a boxcar play structure geared toward younger children.
- Multiple art features designed by artists hired by the Cambridge Arts Council, including an artist with disabilities
- Shade
- Bench seating
- A water feature, including splash pads
- Danehy Park staff are onsite 360 days a year and will be checking the playground and emptying trash barrels several times a day as needed.
- The City is also working on updating parks in other parts of the City to have accessible features.

#### **Chair’s Report:**

- Phil reported sending out a survey to Commission members and that 7 out of 11 have taken it. He will report on the results at the February meeting.
- He & Gary are working on scheduling a board orientation. Kate will send out a Doodle Poll to see what works for everyone.
  - Phil noted that a link to the last board orientation manual was sent out with the survey and that he and Gary are working with Kate on updating it.
  - Gary suggested adding a list of resources of interest to the disability community and asked for any suggestions that members have.
  - He suggested the board form sub-committees to work on issues and projects of interest to members.

#### **Executive Director’s Report:**

- Rachel deferred her report due to lack of time.

#### **Project Coordinator’s Report:**

- Kate reported that the “swinging into inclusivity” proposal was funded in this round of participatory budgeting. This will provide funds to add various types of accessible swings to playgrounds around the City.
- She mentioned that the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC) recently produced a video with both captioning and American Sign Language discussing CHRC’s role in the City and the City ordinances they enforce. CCPD could consider doing something similar about its role.
- Kate will provide an update on the City’s new Language Justice Working Group at the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman