

City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Avril dePagter  
Chair

Mary Devlin  
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff  
Keisha Greaves  
Valerie Hammond  
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin  
Melissa Miguel  
Deepti Nijhawan  
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus  
Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman  
Project Coordinator

**The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM**

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

## AGENDA

**\*Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking\***

- |   |         |                    |
|---|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Introductions  | 2 min.  |                    |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i>  |         |                    |
| 2. Announcements  | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Approval of March Minutes  | 2 min.  | CCPD Board         |
| <i>See page 4 of this agenda packet</i>   |         |                    |
| 4. Nominations for Chair & Secretary  | 15 min. | CCPD Board         |
| 5. Elections for Chair & Secretary  | 10 min. | CCPD Board         |
| 6. Chair's Report   | 10 min. | To be determined   |
| 7. Public Works Update  | 10 min. | Melissa Miguel     |
| 8. Staff Report   | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus   |
| 9. Public Input   | 3 min.  | general public     |
| <i>See pages 2&amp;3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> |         |                    |

## **CART/closed captioning will be provided for this meeting**

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform. Additionally, you may stream CART in a separate URL at <http://bit.ly/CCPDCART>

(captions will not appear until the meeting has started)

The City of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate, including 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, June 13 from 5:30-7:00 PM**

Members of the public: See instructions on pages 2 & 3 on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom

Approved on 6/13/2024

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

# Minutes for Thursday, May 9, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM

## Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter (Chair), Mary Devlin (Secretary), Zach Solomons, Melissa Miguel, Deepti Nijhawan, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, and Keisha Greaves

Absent: Valerie Hammond and Dan Stubbs

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus

## Announcements:

- Mary announced her resignation from the Board, as she has moved to Maine and is no longer eligible to serve. Board members and staff thanked her and wished her well.
- Zach, the Board's new Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) representative, introduced himself.

## Minutes:

A motion to approve the March minutes was seconded and then passed unanimously

## Elections:

Deepti asked about the time commitment required for being Chair or Secretary.

Members of the Board asked procedural questions. Some members were not present and therefore could not vote or make or accept nominations. Keisha made a motion to move the election to June. Loring seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Elections will take place in June.

Loring made a motion to open nominations for Chair and Secretary immediately, closing at the June meeting. Keisha seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The nomination period began immediately.

Loring nominated Deepti for Secretary and Dan for Chair. Deepti declined. Dan was absent.

Keisha nominated Deepti for Chair and Avril and Dan for Secretary. Deepti declined. Dan is absent and Avril is considering the nomination but would also be comfortable if someone else were Secretary.

Deepti asked Loring about his interest in either position; he declined.

Loring and Deepti asked Keisha about her interest in either position. Keisha expressed interest but would need accommodations for notetaking if she were elected Secretary. Rachel stated with certainty that accommodations could be made. Deepti suggested that every month a different member volunteer to take minutes.

## Chair's Report:

The Chair ceded her time.

## Public Works Update:

Melissa Miguel gave the Public Works update.

### On-going construction:

- **River Street**
  - Carl Barron Plaza: bus stop and some route relocations implemented week of April 8.
  - The contractor has fenced off the middle of the Plaza to begin demolition and construction.
  - Bricks were removed along two temporary pedestrian routes through the Plaza and replaced with asphalt walkway. This will be the condition for the remainder of 2024 and part of 2025.
  - Utility work continues on other portions of the corridor.
- **Willard Street**- Drain installation nearly complete. Expect surface (curb, sidewalk, roadway) work to begin this month.
- **Binney Street Park**- Continued work on landscaping, installation of previous multi-use path (which is a section of Grand Junction Path). Estimated construction completion is late spring/early summer 2024.
- **Harvard Sq. Plaza** –Includes pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements at Mass Ave., Dunster St, JFK St and Brattle St. Work has been on hold pending coordination with the MBTA. There is potential to start the project late early summer 2024. MBTA coordination continues.
- **Chapter 90, Contract 24** –
  - Huron Avenue – Glacken Field to Aberdeen is complete. Aberdeen to Fresh Pond Parkway is currently under construction.
  - OCS poles to be removed in the coming weeks by MBTA contractor.
  - Chestnut Street - water main installation complete. Roadway reconstruction continues. Sidewalk reconstruction to follow.

### Upcoming projects:

- **Port Infrastructure Project:**
  - Clement Morgan Park: An event will be held in the Park June 4 (3-7 pm) to show the new design for the Park. Plans will also be made available online after this event to gather feedback.
  - The Park project will be bid in the fall of 2024 for construction starting over the winter when the basketball courts and park have less use.
  - Phase 1 of the utilities and surface streets will also be bid in fall 2024.
- **Mass Ave4 improvements:**
  - Concepts have been developed for the next segment of the project, which is Rindge Ave to Linnaean Street (including Porter Square).
    - Will be presented to the project working group April 25.
    - Will be presented to the Joint Ped/Bike/Transit committee meeting May 15.
  - There will be a public Open House to show these same plans, June 26, at Russell House Apartments on Mass Ave. This has not been advertised yet.
- **Chapter 90, Contract 25** - Newport Construction low bidder. Anticipated construction starts early summer 2024.

Project Page: Folks can sign up for email notifications under the contact tab:

- <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects>
- Search the street of interest in the search bar then click the contact tab.
- Streets included in Contract 25:
  - Green St- Pearl to Landsdowne
  - Maple Avenue- Broadway to Cambridge-

- Centre St – Dana to Hancock
- Montgomery St – Harvey to Rindge
- Sciarappa St- Charles to Winter
- **Chapter 90, Contract 26** - Design and Community process will begin late January/early February 2024. Construction starts late 2024/early 2025.

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- Search the street of interest in the search bar then click the contact tab.
- Streets included in Contract 26:
  - Chetwyn Road – Newell St to End
    - Will be a shared street
  - Gray Street – Martin to Linnaean
  - Haskell – Rindge to Mass Ave
  - Norfolk – Broadway to Somerville City Line
  - Shepard – Garden to Mass Ave
  - Kirkland Rd – Kirkland St to Dead End
    - Will be a shared street

## Staff Report:

Rachel gave the staff report.

- Rachel asked for Board members to help interview applicants for the current Board vacancies. Danielle, Loring, and Deepti volunteered. Rachel updated the Board on the status of the application and selection process to fill those vacancies.
- She reported on attending the virtual National ADA Symposium earlier in the week.
- Rachel has been out of the office attending guide dog school and the ADA Symposium, and Kate is on vacation until May 20. CCPD staff may be slow to respond until everyone is back.
- The City has been working on revising its ADA Reasonable Accommodations policy for employees and job applicants. A revised policy will make it easier for the City to hire and retain people with disabilities, thereby better serving and reflecting its population.
- The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board approved the City's variance requests for the renovation of the Tobin-Vassal Lane School.
- At the June meeting, staff working on the Net Zero Transportation Plan will present to the Board looking for input on how to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from transportation in Cambridge by 2050.

Deepti requested that someone from the MBTA or the Ride attend a Board meeting and answer questions. After some discussion, Rachel offered to invite Andy Reker, Transportation Planner at the City's Community Development Division, who is the City's liaison with the MBTA.

Board members requested that some Board meetings take place in person. Loring suggested quarterly in-person meetings. Rachel expressed a hope to have hybrid Board meetings soon and promised to work on logistics over the summer.

Keisha asked about the possibility of having another Board member retreat and hadn't realized such retreats weren't annual, since the last one was a year ago. Rachel explained that the retreats were designed for specific purposes. Danielle asked what it would take to have another one. Rachel talked about the steps involved in hiring a facilitator and explained the CCPD budget. Some members asked about the feasibility of meeting and discussing issues. Rachel indicated that such meetings would need to comply with open meeting laws.

## Public Comment:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel Tanenhaus