

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Keisha Greaves

Chair

Danielle Jones-McLaughlin

Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff

Avril dePagter

Rayna Jhaveri

Melissa Miguel

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Emma Pan

Zach Solomons

Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus

Executive Director/

ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman

Deputy Director/

Assistant ADA Coordinator

The Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on October 10, 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 | 1 min. | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Presentation on Bike Voucher Lottery Program
<i>See page 4 of this agenda packet for presentation</i> | 30 min. | José Wendel,
Community Development Dept. |
| 4. Approval of August Minutes
<i>See page 12 of this agenda packet</i> | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 5. Report Back on Meeting with MIT Job Connector | 20 min. | Deepti Nijhawan, Rayna Jhaveri, &
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin |
| 6. Chair's Report
<i>Review of CCPD Member Survey Results</i> | 20 min. | Keisha Greaves |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Melissa Miguel |
| 8. CCPD Member Community Conversation | 5 min. | CCPD Board |
| 9. Staff Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 10. Public Input
<i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | 3 min. | general public |

CART/closed captioning will be provided for this meeting

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform or streamed in a separate URL at <https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=Cambridge-14455>

(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, November 14, 2024 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 11/14/2024

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, October 10, 2024 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter, Keisha Greaves (Chair), Rayna Jhaveri, Melissa Miguel, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin (Secretary), Emma Pan

Absent: Deepti Nijhawan, Zach Solomons, and Dan Stubbs

Staff: Kate Thurman

Guest speaker: Jose Wendel, Community Development Department

Announcements:

- Kate announced that the Disability Law Center (DLC) is holding their REV UP MA 2024 Disability Voting Webinar from 1:00-2:30 PM on Tuesday, October 22. The non-partisan webinar will include information about preparing for the upcoming election, legal rights of Massachusetts voters, Accessible Electronic Vote by Mail, and accessibility requirements of polling places across Massachusetts. Register online at <https://www.dlc-ma.org/rev-up-2024-webinar/>

Bike Voucher Lottery Program:

Jose Wendel of the Community Development Department (CDD) presented on the upcoming bicycle voucher lottery program. The details of the lottery program have not been finalized and will be released to the public as soon as they are. Applications are not yet being accepted. See attached presentation for more information.

- The Bike Access Program has not yet been finalized, so there could be minor changes
- Eligible Cambridge residents will be able to apply for a voucher (gift certificate) to put towards buying a new bike
 - Pedal bike
 - E-bike
 - E-cargo bike
 - Adaptive bicycle or tricycle, including handcycles & e-assist bikes, for residents with disability-related needs
- Eligibility criteria:
 - 16+ for pedal bikes
 - 18+ for e-bikes and adaptive bikes
 - Cambridge resident
 - Income eligible
- Because funds are limited, a lottery will be held to select winners from the pool of applicants who will receive a voucher to use towards purchasing a new bike from participating vendors. Winning applicants will also receive a voucher for purchasing accessories. The vouchers are like gift certificates and may not cover the full price of the winner's selected bike or E-bike.
- The City will contract and work with a specialized adaptive bicycle vendor
- Jose is working with Spaulding Adaptive Sports Center (SASC) to schedule an open house with physical therapists at Spaulding Hospital in Cambridge for disabled residents to try different types of adaptive bicycles (Editor's note: it was decided after the CCPD meeting to postpone the open house at Spaulding until the details of the

lottery program have been finalized). Members provided the following feedback for developing a flyer for the open house:

- Use as large a font as possible for any text
- Include the URL along with a QR code for a link to additional information
- There was some confusion over the term “voucher.” Jose said it will be more like a gift certificate for up to a certain amount that lottery winners can take to specific participating bike shops.
 - The certificate amount will be tiered depending on the type of bike (for example, certificates issued for adaptive bikes will be worth more than those issued for standard pedal bicycles because adaptive bikes are much more expensive)
 - The dollar amount of the certificates will be included with information about the lottery program once all the details have been finalized.
 - Some members suggested using the word “discount”
- There was a suggestion to include imagery that makes it clear that people with disabilities are included in the program. Otherwise, many will assume it doesn’t apply to them.
- Include in materials about the Spaulding Open House that physical therapists will be available to help disabled residents determine their needs for bicycle adaptations

Minutes:

A motion to approve the September minutes was seconded and then passed unanimously by all present.

Report Back on Meeting with MIT Job Connector:

Rayna and Danielle reported that they and Deepti met with Sara Reese and Ted, a member of her team, at the MIT Job Connector to discuss what they do for the community. Sara’s job is to do resource mapping. CCPD can use her skills to see what they do and maybe create some cohesiveness between parties to figure out how to connect people with jobs. See attached document, *Notes on Employment Opportunities for Cambridge Residents with Disabilities* by Deepti, Rayna, and Danielle for more information.

- MIT made an agreement with the City of Cambridge to provide this job connector to help offset all the MIT construction that’s happening. It’s a resource for residents to benefit from, created in consideration of the increase in traffic, business, resources that might be flowing through. However, it is not a direct job listing place where they will make introductions to recruiters
- Questions for CCPD staff
 - Do we have specific departments to create employment opportunities?
 - Are there local examples we could use to support the design of a pilot program if we want to do that?
 - Do the universities provide employment programs for folks with disabilities?
- Kate and Rachel will be joining Rayna, Danielle, and Deepti for their next meeting with the job connector on November 20
- Loring said this is a really good idea that Keisha is starting in her tenure because she’s getting us some follow up on guest speakers so we can get some traction beyond just presentations. Great example of how this commission could dig deeper and get more info. He also noted that this could be good information to put on CCPD’s website
- Emma asked if the Job Connector is hoping to grow into providing direct connections for residents to existing job opportunities. Rayna said that they are a very small staff, just 3 or 4 folks, so they don’t have the resources to go out and find and maintain those relationships. They do post job listings on their website, but they don’t make introductions between applicants and employers. Maybe CCPD can assist with that.
- Keisha suggested adding Partners for Youth with Disabilities to see if they could be a resource. Keisha will see if someone from PYD can come speak at a meeting
- Keisha also mentioned the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program and asked Kate if there was a specific City of Cambridge employment program for youth with disabilities.

- Kate noted that youth with disabilities are integrated into the existing Mayor's Summer Youth Program, but that her knowledge, the City doesn't have a substantially separate program for kids with disabilities.
- The working group would like to meet with the Office of Workforce Development to discuss employment opportunities for Cambridge youth with disabilities

Chair's Report & CCPD Member Community Conversation:

Keisha gave an overview of results from the CCPD member survey, which were discussed by all members. The following topics were mentioned in survey responses:

- Guest speaker ideas
 - Community members
 - Disability coordinators and diversity, equity, and inclusion managers from local businesses and universities
 - City of Cambridge employees, engagement, special education,
 - Advocates like Kathy Martinez, Dr. Temple, and Mia Ives-Rublee
 - ADA compliance and assistive technology
 - Members of other commissions on disability
- Topics and suggestions for meetings
 - Shift staff report to beginning of meeting
 - Accessible transportation on demand
 - Disability employment and training programs
 - Disability-related issues in Cambridge – planning and updates
 - Socializing and engagement at public events
 - Website and social media
 - Regular newsletter and other outreach
 - Holding a town hall type meeting to hear back from the Cambridge disability community
 - Limit guest presentations to 20 to 25 minutes and allow more time for member discussion
 - Clarify CCPD member roles
- Suggestions for utilizing member skillsets
 - Leverage members' experience in public speaking for awareness
 - Involve members in designing workshops, educational programs
 - Create opportunities for members to lead projects based on their skills and interests

Keisha reported that she's working with staff to schedule another retreat in 2025, and Kate added that we have Ellen Semonoff's support and may move forward with planning the retreat, which will likely be held in April of 2025.

Public Works Update:

Melissa Miguel reported

- The City Engineer will present the results of DPW'S updated sidewalk survey. The City conducts a survey on street and sidewalk conditions every year, looking at things like structural condition, accessibility, curb ramps, detectable warnings, etc. They use the data to help prioritize which streets need to be considered for repair or reconstruction over the following several years and to update the City's Five-Year Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction Plan. They also take into consideration proximity to schools, bus stops, public transportation, senior centers, hospitals, etc. Planning many years ahead gives utility companies time to make updates before the streets are redone so streets don't have to be ripped up after being newly reconstructed.
- After many years of delays, the Harvard Plaza reconstruction project has now started. It's broken into 8 phases. More information can be found at <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects/2021/harvardsquarekioskandplaza>, but the main goal of the project is to make Harvard Plaza and the Kiosk accessible.

- Melissa explained that the raised crosswalk at Dunster St. has been ripped up because just under it are the water main, drain line, gas line, and protective concrete slab for the MBTA Red Line tunnel. The MBTA infrastructure prevents the City from doing a lot of things underground. For example, because they can't dig down very far before reaching the slab, the drainage line must be placed much higher than it normally would be. They're currently working on connecting the drain and sewer.
- The winter moratorium, during which private construction excavations in the public right of way are prohibited, begins on November 25. The moratorium does not apply to city contracts.
- Binney Park has been officially opened to the public
- Mt. Auburn project should wrap up at the end of this month with final paving
- River St. Project update: will complete curb, sidewalk and paving on Fairmont Ave and Fairmont Street. Fairmont Ave is the "shared" street. Not all the shared street features will be completed this year, but key items such as the raised crosswalks at each end will be complete.

Staff Report:

Kate Thurman reported

- She and Rachel are waiting for their new part-time administrative assistant position to be posted to the City's job portal and will notify members once it goes up. The position is 19.5 hours per week and does not include benefits.

Public Comment:

J.D. Martz introduced himself as a member of the Danvers Accessible Commission (DCC). He explained that the commission was restarted a year or two ago after having been dormant for many years. They renamed the Danvers Disability Commission to the Danvers Accessibility Commission earlier this year. DCC meets on either the 3rd or 4th Thursday of each month. They also host a series called *Living Room Conversations* with guest speakers at the library. Last month's topic was accessibility and next month's event will be on assistive technology.

J.D. said the Commission is working on getting Danvers to update a bunch of crosswalks around town. They have also collaborated with their high school on art projects with a disability/town theme.

They are interested in learning about the work of other commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman

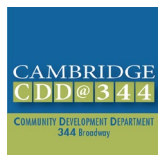


**City of Cambridge
Community Development Department**

Bike Access Program

Cambridge Bike Lottery

October 2024



Program is not finalized and subject to change

Agenda

Introductions

Program description

Review flyer draft language

Questions





Cambridge residents can apply for vouchers to buy a new bike:

- **Pedal bicycle**
- **E-bicycle**
- **E-cargo bicycle**
- **Adaptive bicycle or electric handcycle
wheelchair attachment**

Pedal bicycle



E-Bike



E-Cargo bicycle



Adaptive bicycle



Types of Bicycles



Eligibility Requirements

- Age:
16+ for pedal bikes
18+ for e-bikes and adaptive bikes
- Location:
Must live in Cambridge, MA
- Income:
Must meet certain criteria



Class 2 E-Bikes

Application & Selection Process

- Residents apply for the program and choose the type of bicycle that they want
- Lottery will be held to select who will get a bicycle voucher plus a voucher for accessories
- Winners take their voucher to a participating bike shop and buy a bicycle and accessories



Expected Income Eligibility Categories

People who participate in benefit programs such as

- EBT (SNAP)
- Fuel Assistance
- Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)
- MassHealth
- WIC

OR

People with low incomes who don't participate in benefit programs



How You Can Help

- Review draft flyer
- When finalized, share with your network
- Help people apply for the program



Thank you!

José Wendel

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