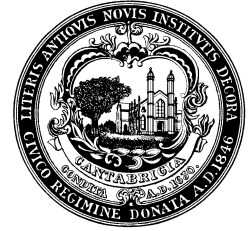


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Chair

Bet MacArthur
Secretary

Miriam Cooper
Sandy Durmaskin
Kara Falise
Avner Fink
JoAnn Haas
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Naomi Pinson

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Disability Project Coordinator

Joanna Berton Martinez
Seasonal Project Coordinator

Katie Ashwill
Pro Bono Associate

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, January 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

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.

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of December 11 Minutes | 5 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 10 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 5. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 6. Police Community Liaison Update | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 8. Update: Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min. | JoAnn Haas |
| 9. Executive Director's Report | 5 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.



Approved March 19, 2015

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Thursday, January 8, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm

Present:

Members: Debbie Cheng, Sandy Durmaskin, Avner Fink, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Bet MacArthur.

Alternate: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, JoAnn Haas, and Naomi Pinson.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for January 8, 2015 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from December 11, 2014 Meeting

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2014 was seconded and passed.

Film Series Update: Bet MacArthur reported that ReelAbilities Boston will be screening *Stand Clear of the Closing Doors* in partnership with Disability Reframed on Tuesday, February 24 at the Cambridge Main Library.

Nicole Horton-Stimpson will forward the flyer to the Cambridge parents' advisory committee.

Police Community Liaison Update: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert reported that Cambridge has had no traffic accident fatalities in two years. He also said that the Cambridge Police Department received a \$105,000 grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety which will be used for enforcement purposes.

He said that there have been four peaceful protests in Cambridge in response to the national issue of police misconduct. Deputy Superintendent Albert reported that the Cambridge Police Department actively seeks to engage with the community and welcomes peaceful protests.

He also reported speaking with the owner of the Keefe Funeral Home in North Cambridge about the issue of funeral home visitors parking in the bus stop on Mass Ave at Rindge Ave. The funeral home has purchased signs that direct people not to park in the bus stop and are actively instructing people not to do so.

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng reported on how DPW evaluates streets and sidewalks. The department uses a variety of tools to help prioritize construction projects. Some of the tools that DPW use are:

1. Pavement Management
 - a. FST, a private contractor, was hired in 2011 to evaluate the roadway condition. The roadway condition only evaluated curb-to-curb and does not include sidewalks. City streets are divided into three areas and one area is driven by FST every year.
 - b. The pavement condition map is updated every year based on the area (1/3 of city) driven by FST and compiled and submitted newly paved areas by DPW at the end of every construction season.

- c. Streets are categorized into five different categories: excellent condition, good condition, fair condition, poor condition, and failed condition. Each category recommends a different level of maintenance or repair.
 - d. DPW evaluates the streets and finalizes the list for crack sealing, grind and overlay, or full depth reconstruction.
2. Sidewalk Condition Map
- a. About five years ago, DPW walked approximately 70-80% of sidewalks. This map is updated every year based on the projects completed.
 - b. The map is based on the following criteria: non-compliant driveways, trees and pinpoints, cross slopes, and structural condition.
3. Missing Ramp Survey
- a. In 2009, this map was created indicating locations around the city with missing ramps. This map is also updated every year based on the projects completed.

These three maps can be overlaid onto a single map to help prioritize areas based on pavement and sidewalk condition and missing ramps. City streets that are either going into construction or are in the design process include: Pearl St, Kirkland St, Second St, Fulkerson St, and River St.

In addition to this information, DPW considers sewer separation goals, failing infrastructure, resident requests, high priority areas, etc. to prioritize streets. These tools are just some of the ways that DPW remains committed to and proactive in improving city streets and infrastructure. The Five Year Plan for 2015 is currently being updated and will be presented to the Commission around April.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that the Budget received over 300 suggestions for the uses of the participatory budget. There is an opportunity to help fine-tune the suggestions online.

He reported participating in the East Cambridge Kendall Open Space Group's Technical Advisory Group. An interesting plan will come out of that process. He also said that the accessibility updates in the Sullivan Chamber are almost completed. There will be a ribbon ceremony.

He said that he plans to request a meeting with Tom Hopkins, Chair of the MA Architectural Access Board, to discuss why the AAB is issuing an increasing number of variances to privately owned apartment buildings in Cambridge. He plans to ask Mr. Hopkins why these variance applications are being approved and what advocates can do to ensure that these buildings are accessible. Sandy Durmaskin and Kate Thurman will join the meeting.

Mr. Muehe reported receiving eight applications for the two CCPD Board vacancies and said that Elizabeth Dean-Clower is chairing the interview committee, consisting of her, Sandy Durmaskin and Bet MacArthur.

He said that the Fresh Air Bill, ensuring that people receiving treatment in Dept. of Mental Health licensed facilities have access the outdoors at least once per day, was signed into law by Governor Patrick. The governor also signed the remote participation bill, allowing members of Commissions on Disabilities to participate in meetings remotely; this bill also allows for a quorum to be met by remote participation.

He suggested that the Commission set some priorities for legislation and will speak with the Disability Policy Consortium and the Disability Law Center.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported that she has touched base with Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert and Mark McCabe, Director of the Animal Commission, and is working to set up a meeting to discuss the issue of "fake" service animals that was raised at the November CCPD meeting. Bet MacArthur is interested in attending this meeting.

She also said that CCPD's social media presence continues to grow and that CCPD's Twitter account has proven to be a successful way to spread the word about everything from the film series to the AccessLetter to other events.

Old Business:

Michael Muehe said that the City does have a new contract with a company to install accessible pedestrian signals. There are approximately 10-12 intersections on the list to receive them.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator