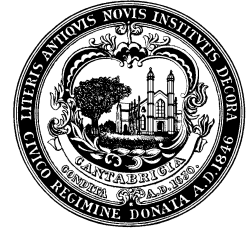


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · TTY via 711 · 617-349-4766 fax



Avril dePagter
Chair

Mary Devlin
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff
Jerry Friedman
Robert Goss
Keisha Greaves
Valerie Hammond
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Danielle Jones-McLaughlin
Deepti Nijhawan
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 online via Zoom on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 5:30 PM**

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

- | | | |
|--|---------|---|
| 1. Introductions
<i>If needed, alternates named</i> | 2 min. | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Nominations & Elections for
Chair & Secretary | 5 min. | CCPD Board |
| 4. Approval of April 13 Minutes
<i>See page 4 of agenda packet</i> | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 5. Cambridge Street Code
Revision & Update
<i>See page 6 of agenda packet for presentation &
page 13 for the DRAFT Street Code: Rules & Etiquette for Getting There Together</i> | 30 min. | Miguel Perez-Luna,
Community Development Dept. |
| 6. CCPD Working Group Reports
<i>Plans for moving the work forward</i> | 20 min. | CCPD Board |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 8. Staff Report | 5 min. | |
| 9. Public Input
<i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | 5 min. | general public |

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 online on Thursday, June 8

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

Approved 9/14/23

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, May 11, 2023 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Mary Devlin (Secretary, acting as Chair), Jerry Friedman, Robert Goss, Valerie Hammond, Keisha Greaves, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, Deepti Nijhawan, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Avril dePagter

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus & Kate Thurman

Guest Speaker: Miguel Perez-Luna, Community Development Department (CDD)

Announcements:

- There will be a vote held at next month's meeting on taking either July or August off for summer recess.
- Robert recently learned of an organization called Where to Wheel, which has a website and app on the accessibility of venues.

Minutes:

The April 13, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

Nominations & Elections for Chair & Secretary

- Avril and Mary were nominated for second terms as Chair and Secretary, respectively, at last month's meeting. Nominations were opened again prior to the election.
- There were no further nominations
- Votes were held and Avril and Mary were unanimously reelected as Chair and Secretary

Updating the City Street Code

- Miguel of the Environment & Transportation Division of the Community Development Department (CDD) presented on updating the City's street code (see attached presentation & DRAFT Street Code from 2021)
- The Cambridge Street Code, published in 2018, is a guide explaining the rules of the road and etiquette for all users (people who drive, walk, cycle, etc.)
- In October 2022, City Council issued an order for the Street Code to be reviewed and revised because many infrastructure changes have been made since 2018. The order instructed CDD to speak with several different groups around the city, including CCPD.
- In 2021, CDD started working on a revision of the Street Code. It addresses ride share etiquette, dedicated bus lanes, and protected intersections. They are now further revising that draft.
- Miguel asked those in attendance to provide feedback on the current draft. Does the wording and language make sense? Are there topics that are missing? What are we not thinking about?
- He noted that this is just one tool of the broader City Council order. They want to be sure this resource is as comprehensive as possible. The second part of this project will be thinking about outreach strategies to get it out to the community.

- Dan asked Rachel what kind of guidelines there are for visuals for people who have difficulty seeing. She and Kate offered to review it before it goes out. Kate said that it would be important to make large print copies available, as well. Rachel said there will be an accessible electronic format.
- Valerie requested videos, as diagrams and text don't work for everyone. Miguel said the Youth Council also suggested videos and that creating videos may be a project that the Mayor's Summer Youth Program students work on this summer.
- Deputy Superintendent John Boyle suggested informational posters with a QR link. Kate added that a written URL needs to be included on materials with QR codes, as not everyone has a smart phone. Miguel noted that they have ad spaces on the Blue Bike stations that they can use.
- John said that the Police Department could help spread the word at community events they attend.

Working groups:

- Mary reported on getting the small working groups started.
- The working groups that were formed at the retreat are:
 - Creating a Commission Road Map
 - Social media
 - Creating welcome packets for new members and for new residents
 - Film series
 - Document updates
 - Youth engagement
- Steps for the working groups:
 - Determine the scope of the project – is it an ongoing activity or a one-time project? Are you going to need different resources at different times? Will it scale up over time, like doing one screening in the first year of the film series, etc.
 - The next step is to outline the plans for implementation. How are you going to do it? Develop your timelines for implementation, understanding that some projects will go into future years. Identify any resources you need. More people to help? Do you need money? Whatever it is you need to implement your plan. We don't want people to feel overwhelmed. We want projects/events/etc. to come back to the full board for approval.
 - At each monthly CCPD meeting, some group or groups will be reporting back on their progress. Groups can take the summer to organize and then start reporting back on progress in September. For some groups, it will take longer to develop larger projects, etc.
- Loring said that the creating welcome packets group (Loring, Mary, & Valerie) has already started to look at the responsibilities of onboarding new members. They have developed an outline of topics for future new board members.
- Nicole said that she and Danielle met regarding youth engagement, using the time to understand each other's background and experience. They spoke about the idea of bringing youth voices to the Commission. They're looking at moving forward in September or October
- Danielle noted that she's a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SE-PAC) member. They could use their platforms to provide information to parents of youth in the community
- Dan reported that Mary has started working on updating the bylaws and sent them to him for review. They will mostly be updating terms like "handicapped"

Public Works Update:

- Jerry reported that the River St. project is in full swing; crews have mostly been working on a handful of side streets in Cambridgeport, but they are getting close to starting on River St, so there will be more noise and dust

- They are doing their best to accommodate abutters. They had one resident on a side street with a regular twice a day medical pickup and drop off for appointments. They worked very successfully with the abutter and contractor to get through that street which would have otherwise been closed
- There have been a few cases where contractors left materials and debris in ways that made sidewalks inaccessible and DPW was able to respond very quickly. They have a very good contractor who has been very responsive with that type of issue
- Inman Square is getting closer to finishing
 - Crews recently completed some benches in the west plaza. They are comfortable. They have some with arm rests, some without, some with backs, some without
 - There will be some sort of opening event this summer in collaboration with the East Cambridge Business Association
- Brattle Street in West Cambridge is under construction. The City is adding lots of raised islands for pedestrians
- The first meeting of the Mass Ave partial construction working group is coming up. Dan is a member. They will be kicking off the process of bicycle and pedestrian and bus improvements to Mass Ave from Cambridge Common to the Arlington line. One of the key things they're looking to do is to add crosswalks. There are very large gaps between existing crosswalks on some stretches of North Mass Ave
- DPW is holding a series of street meetings in the Port, looking at innovative shared streets on small side streets like Suffolk, Worcester, Pine, Cherry. The plan is to design them to create shared spaces between vehicles and pedestrians, right down the middle of the street. It's the European shared street model. They've gotten some great feedback from meetings with residents. He will be speaking with Kate and Rachel about some access issues that have come up.
- Keisha noted that there are a lot of cracks in the sidewalks by Cambridgeside Galleria and Lechmere station.
- Jerry said that the key point is to make sure there is enough time in the crosswalk for people of all abilities to get across. The Department of Traffic, Parking, and Transportation (TPT) tries to go above and beyond the national standards which assume a certain pace, number of feet per second that someone crosses, etc., whereas a lot of cities do the bare minimum.
- Send Jerry any specific locations and concerns and he'll pass them along to TPT

Staff Report:

- Following up on feedback from the retreat, Rachel asked members to let her know what they would like covered in staff reports.
- Rachel said that she staffed an informational table at the City's fair and affordable housing event in April and that there was a great turnout.
- She said that an egregious variance request had been filed with the MA Architectural Access Board (MAAB) and that she will be submitting testimony opposing it. New construction multi-family housing was built without an elevator as required and now that construction has been completed, they are applying for a variance stating that it would be impracticable to add an elevator because the building was designed (and constructed) without one.
- Rachel will be joining a virtual meeting next month between other municipal disability leaders and US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to discuss recommendations for transportation policies that affect people with disabilities.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman