

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Chair

Debbie Cheng
Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Gary Dmytryk
Sandy Durmaskin
Maria Fontellio
Zahra Kanji
Bet MacArthur
Naomi Pinson
Alicia Zeh-Dean

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
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, February 11, 2016 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 may be audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

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| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of January 14 Minutes | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 20 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| 5. Spaulding Cambridge Community Needs Assessment | 25 min. | Jack Carroll & Joanne Fucile, SHC |
| 6. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 7. Police Community Liaison | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 8. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 9. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Michael Muehe |
| <i>Updates to the Cambridge Human Rights Commission Ordinance</i> | | |
| 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 10, 2016

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, February 11, 2016

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:41PM

Present

Members: Debbie Cheng, Elizabeth Dean-Clower (by phone), Sandy Durmaskin (by phone), Maria Fontellio, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Zahra Kanji, and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

Absent: Gary Dmytryk, Bet MacArthur, and Naomi Pinson.

Alternates: Donald Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Guests: Naeem Ahmed, Community Member; Jack Albert, Deputy Superintendent, Cambridge Police Department; Jack Carroll, Spaulding Hospital Cambridge; Joanne Fucile, Spaulding Hospital Cambridge; and Carmel Madhere, Community Member.

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from January 14
- SHC Community Health Needs Assessment and Priorities
- SHC Draft Health Needs Assessment and Quality of Life Survey

Minutes:

A motion to approve the January 14, 2016 minutes was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report: Nicole Horton-Stimpson said that CCPD's visit to the Gateway Arts Center went very well. They provide studio space to artists with brain injury and/or psychiatric and intellectual disabilities. Gateway also sells the artwork and artists receive 50% of the proceeds. The Center provides case management and guides artists in making their own decisions.

Gateway's focus is on providing an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to pursue a career as an artist. The Center helps artists build portfolios, write artist statements, and create resumes. They are well-connected with the arts community, allowing artists to be featured in different galleries and museums.

Ms. Horton-Stimpson reminded members that nominations for Chair and Secretary will be taken in April, with elections held in May.

She also said that she has written a draft letter to the MBTA regarding The Ride, as discussed at the January CCPD meeting.

Spaulding Cambridge Community Needs Assessment: Jack Carroll and Joanne Fucile from Spaulding Hospital Cambridge (SHC) spoke about a community health needs assessment (CHNA) they are working on. As part of their need to be compliant with the IRS, they have to do this assessment. They noted that only a small percentage of inpatients at SHC come from Cambridge. They are conducting a needs assessment in order to determine how they can best be a resource to the Cambridge community.

SHC has a strong working relationship with the local community. For example, they provide career guidance to CRLS students, conducting mock interviews. They are also a work site for Cambridge Works, part of the Cambridge Employment Program, providing paid internships to individuals facing barriers to employment; SHC has hired more than 30 people from that program.

Other SHC community engagement includes providing space for MRC to meet with clients; hosting Red Cross blood drives; providing free meeting space to local entities and support groups in the evenings and over weekends; fundraising for local food pantries; and providing a large financial aid program for patients who are underinsured. SHC is in the process of developing a new program called Job Lab; they have partnered with CVS, a bank and other stores to set up small shops inside SHC to allow people with disabilities to practice working.

They handed out a survey that has been drafted in order to gauge the needs of Cambridge residents, requesting input from CCPD members. See attachments for more information. The survey is intended for Cambridge residents; several options for outreach to get the survey out were discussed.

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng reported that DPW has been working on updating the Five Year Plan, which is usually finalized in March or April. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Ms. Cheng said that the iReport smart phone app has been retired and that the City has switched to Commonwealth Connect, which is also used by many other cities and towns. Commonwealth Connect allows users to report issues such as unshoveled sidewalks, sidewalks needing repair, potholes, etc. This app allows users to follow other complaints received and have more of a two-way conversation with DPW; reports of issues are triaged and forwarded to the right person, and the app will show that the report has been acknowledged and feedback will be given as it moves through the process of being addressed.

The City has launched a new online snow center; updates on snow operations, including parking bans and City and school closures, can now be found online at www.cambridgema.gov/snow. The website also provides opportunity for reporting unshoveled sidewalks.

Police Community Liaison: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert said that officers have been working hard to enforce no parking in MBTA bus stops. It is a problem all over the City with tour buses parking in the stops or in other illegal spots, including disability parking spots. He said that officers have been assigned to this issue and encouraged people to call the non-emergency police number at 617-349-3300 if they witness such illegal parking.

Disability Reframed: Kate Thurman reported in Bet MacArthur's absence that it has been confirmed that the filmmaker of *Mimi and Dona*, which Disability Reframed is screening in conjunction with ReelAbilities Boston, will be in attendance and speaking after the film. Susan Pacheco, Executive Director of the Cambridge Council on Aging will also speak after the screening. This event will run from 6:00-8:30pm on Tuesday, April 5 in the Lecture Hall of the Cambridge Main Library.

She also reported that the Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities is working on securing a location for another screening in Boston.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that the Architectural Access Bill S1323, which will update AAB regulations so they are more powerful and enforceable and brought into line with the requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act, was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Public Safety. The bill is now before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He suggested contacting state senators to request their support for this bill. The goal is to get the bill through the Senate and House prior to July 1, 2016.

Mr. Muehe said that the Boston Center for Independent Living is advocating for an increase in funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP). Governor Baker has proposed level funding for FY17, but housing

prices continue to increase. A motion to support increased funding for housing vouchers for people with disabilities was made, seconded and passed.

He reported that he and Kate Thurman have been working with Nancy Schlacter, Executive Director of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC), on updating the language around disability in their ordinance. The term “handicap” will be replaced by “disability.” CHRC is also updating the definition of gender in their ordinance.

Mr. Muehe said that Cinderella’s Pizza spent over \$100,000 on renovations, yet neglected to create an accessible entrance to the restaurant. They are now requesting a variance from the MAAB to exempt them from having to create one. A hearing will be held on Monday, Feb. 22 at 11am at One Ashburton Place in Boston; Mr. Muehe encouraged folks to attend to express opposition if possible.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Universal Access Program will be partnering with Spaulding Adaptive Sports and Sara Hendren of Olin College on an adaptive cycling program that will be offered on four Sundays throughout the summer on Memorial Drive.

Project Coordinator’s Report: Kate Thurman said that she and Michael Muehe recently met with two Cambridge residents who use Guide Dogs to discuss transportation concerns. Specifically, they were concerned about the number of refusals that people using service animals receive from taxicab drivers, who claim to be either allergic or fearful of dogs. They examined the current Cambridge hackney regulations and discovered that they need to be updated and brought into line with the ADA. As they stand now, the regulations allow drivers to refuse transport to people who use service animals due to an allergy or fear. There are some other concerns about the regulations, as well.

Deputy Superintendent Albert reported that the License Commission has hired a new Chair. He said that the City Manager has created a committee to look into changing the regulations of the taxicab industry to compete with Uber and Lyft, so this is a good time to update regulations.

New Business:

Maria Fontellio introduced the idea of providing training on serving customers with disabilities to staff at Eastern Bank, where she works. She will work with Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman to set something up, as they routinely conduct such trainings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08PM
Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman