

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Gary Dmytryk
Chair
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Secretary

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, May 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cellphones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

NOTE: CCPD meetings may be audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

Katie Ashwill Allen
Maria Fontellio
Jerry Friedman
Stelios Gragoudas
Mike Langlois
Luis Loya
Bet MacArthur
Julie Miller
Alicia Zeh-Dean

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

- | | | |
|--|---------|------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Approval of April 13 Minutes | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 15 min. | Gary Dmytryk |
| <i>Nominations, followed by election of Officers</i> | | |
| <i>Cambridge River Festival on Saturday, June 3</i> | | |
| <i>Board Goals for Retreat</i> | | |
| <i>Mission statement: ad hoc committee</i> | | |
| <i>Summer meeting schedule</i> | | |
| 5. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 6. Committee Reports | | |
| Access Cambridge | 5 min. | Luis Loya |
| Advocacy | 5 min. | Katie Ashwill Allen |
| Community Outreach | 10 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| Media & Technology | 5 min. | Mike Langlois |
| 7. Police Department Liaison Report | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 8. Executive Director's Report | 5 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 9. Project Coordinator's Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 10. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 11. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 12. 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.

The next CCPD meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2017

PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH AWARENESS



Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, May 11, 2017

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

Present

Members: Gary Dmytryk, Maria Fontellio, Jerry Friedman, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Mike Langlois, Luis Loya, Bet MacArthur, and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

Absent: Stelios Gragoudas and Julie Miller

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Guests: Don Summerfield

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from April 13
- Five Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan
- Gun Buy-Back Flyer
- NeighborGood Flyer
- Table of Contents for Advisory Board Information Manual
- Flyer for May 26 Healthcare Conference

Minutes:

A motion to approve the April 13 minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: No additional nominations were made since the April 13 meeting when Gary was nominated for Chair and Nicole was nominated for Secretary. Gary Dmytryk and Nicole Horton-Stimpson were unanimously elected as Chair and Secretary, respectively.

Chair's Report— Gary Dmytryk reported

- Volunteering to staff CCPD table at River Fest on June 3
- Discussion of having a table at Danehy Park Day in September
- Gary went to a meeting sponsored by the MA Office on Disability (MOD) for regional commissions on disability.
 - This is the first year the state has municipal ADA grants; there is grant money available for cities to make ADA improvements.
 - Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE Act) allows individuals on SSI or SSDI to save money in a special account that will not result in the loss of eligibility for benefits.
 - More info at www.ablenrc.org
 - Michael has put together a draft of an Advisory Board Information Manual. The table of contents was passed around.

- Holding a board retreat after the summer. Thinking of an afternoon in the Community Room of the main library.
 - It was decided to hold it on a Saturday
 - 3 main topics:
 - Mission statement for CCPD
 - Luis, Gary and Alicia will work on a mission statement ahead of the retreat
 - Community involvement
 - Intersectionality and disability
- The board will take the month of August off

Public Works Update – Jerry Friedman reported on several ongoing construction projects

- The Inman Square project will result in a significant reconfiguration of Hampshire and Cambridge Streets
- The most recent participatory budget calls for more separated bicycle facilities
 - A separated bike lane will be added to Cambridge Street, causing that street to lose 60% of its parking

Committee Reports:

- **Access Cambridge** – Luis Loya reported
 - Combining the Advocacy and Access Cambridge Committees into one
 - Keeping an eye on the MAAB
- **Community Outreach** – Nicole Horton-Stimpson reported
 - Social stairs in Downtown Crossing—a set of stairs for people to gather and socialize. Luis noted that these count as assembly spaces, so there is a requirement for some accessible seating. Members will meet there on Sunday, June 11.
 - Nicole is making a fiscal request for field trips, for accessible transportation
 - Danehy Park will likely be our next event after River Fest
 - Park(ing) Day – not this year, but possibly next year
 - Brown bag series with the Employee’s Committee on Diversity and the LGBTQ Commission
 - Inviting in guest speakers for City staff during lunch hour
 - Presentations being more regular at monthly CCPD meeting, possibly having someone every other month.
 - More community involvement
- **Disability Reframed: A Community Film Series**—Bet MacArthur reported
 - The film committee (Julie, Stel and Bet) meet with Jessica Doonan of the Boston Commission (BCPD) to discuss future film screenings.
 - CCPD will screen a film in July (possible on July 12); will determine film and details by June 1.
 - BCPD will do a screening on or around November 16. Discussed film options, will screen a feature film.

- The committee is collecting titles. Discussed screening *Me Before You*, a very controversial film, or episodes of *Switched at Birth*. *The King's Speech* was also suggested.
- Discussion on partnering with a children's film series to show something like *Finding Nemo* or *Finding Dory*
 - Could have a partnership with the library to screen a children's film

- **Media & Technology** – Mike Langlois reported

- Wednesday, May 24 at 11am, CCPD members are invited for a tour of Nuvu studios near Central Square. They are fully accessible. One group was designing an adaptive Nintendo control set. They will show us some of their projects.
- Ablegamers.org is a group that designs and funds adaptive technology for people who play or want to play video games. They also create expansion packs, which are gaming centers for people with disabilities who need adaptive equipment.

Police Community Liaison Update: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert reported

- The PD has a newly filled position of Traffic Crash Analyst.
 - She's looking at all the data that the PD, Traffic and Community Development departments have.
 - Looking at rates of crashes compared to the number of things that are moving. Looked at the number of bicycle crashes over the years—not looking just at numbers, now looking at rates taking into consideration how ridership has changed over the years (for example, there are far more cyclists today than there was a decade ago)
- The PD is holding their annual Gun Buy Back program on June 10 from 9 am to noon at the Reservoir Church, 170 Rindge Ave and at Pentecostal Tabernacle Church, 56 Magazine Street.
 - Religious groups donate money for gift cards that are exchanged for people's guns, no questions asked.
 - Give children a gift card for ice cream when they bring a toy gun or squirt gun.

Executive Director's Report—Michael Muehe reported

- City Council recently declared May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Fibromyalgia (FM) Day. These conditions are widely misunderstood and stigmatized. Mayor Simmons is signing this proclamation on Friday, May 12 at 9am.
- There are two bills under consideration in the state legislature. One would update the MAAB to be more in line with the ADA. The other bill would set off very complicated and potentially damaging scoping regulations on when buildings have to be brought into compliance.
- Since the Governor's reorganization plan, MAAB is now housed under the Executive Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.
- Still waiting to receive a written decision from the MAAB regarding the hearing on 50 JFK Street. The board is granting a variance to the gelato store, but is requiring the property owner to bring into compliance by elevating the privately owned sidewalk.
- Red House restaurant is planning to subdivide their restaurant space in order to accommodate a medical marijuana dispensary. They are planning on applying for a variance, but expect to see good accessibility. Variance is for the restaurant, not the dispensary, which will be accessible.
- Asked members to look at draft board manual and let staff know if they have any suggestions

- Trying to put together a proposal for a grant for project that can be done by June 30. The state has allocated one million dollars per year for FY17 and FY18 for municipalities to make ADA capital improvements. This is the first time the state has offered ADA accessibility compliance money to cities and towns.

Project Coordinator's Report—Kate Thurman reported

- Discussed the issue of wayfinding in City buildings with Ned Collier, one of the architects the City has hired for the municipal facilities improvement plan (MFIP). He and I are meeting with Valerie Fletcher at the Institute for Human Centered Design to discuss a plan for signage and wayfinding in the Annex, as well as developing a wayfinding policy for the City to use going forward. DPW will be applying for a grant from the MOD for this project.
- We are partnering again with the Disability Law Center on a Healthcare Conference at the Main Library on Friday, May 26.
- NeighborGood is a new non-profit that started as a project called iCanHelp by Harvard Business School students. It is a website where people with disabilities or chronic health problems can request help with a daily task such as grocery shopping, taking the trash and recycling to the curb, etc. and are then matched with nearby volunteers who are looking to lend a hand to their neighbors.
- HelpAroundTown (www.helparoundtown.com) is somewhat similar to NeighborGood, with the major difference being that it's an online classified for paid jobs. Individuals can post tasks they need to have done, such as mowing the lawn; likewise, people looking for paid jobs can post their skills.

New Business: Nicole reported attending a meeting where there was a presentation by Chris Griffin of the Disability Law Center on how a bill becomes a law in Massachusetts. She passed around a handout on the subject.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman