

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Alicia Zeh-Dean

Chair

Valerie Hammond

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, April 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.**

Gary Dmytryk

Jerry Friedman

Stelios Gragoudas

Nicole Horton-Stimpson

Philibert Kongtcheu

Julie Miller

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.

Rachel Tanenhaus
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

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| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Approval of February 14 Minutes | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 15 min. | Alicia Zeh-Dean |
| <i>Nominations & Elections for Officer Positions</i> | | |
| <i>AAB Bill</i> | | |
| <i>Summer Meeting Schedule</i> | | |
| 5. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 6. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 7. Project Coordinator's Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 8. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 9. Old Business | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 10. New Business | 2 min. | CCPD Board |

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, May 9, 2019

Approved 5/9/19

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, April 11, 2019

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:56pm

Present

Members: Jerry Friedman, Stelios Gragoudas, Valerie Hammond, Philibert Kongtcheu, and Alicia Zeh-Dean

Absent: Gary Dmytryk, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Julie Miller

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from February 14, 2019 Meeting

Minutes:

A motion to accept the February 14 minutes was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report: Alicia Zeh-Dean reported:

- The Disability Policy Consortium is asking commissions and organizations to endorse the AAB bill that Lenny Somervell spoke about at the February meeting.
 - A motion for CCPD to endorse An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board (AAB) was seconded and passed unanimously.
- If members would like agenda time, please let the Chair and CCPD staff know at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Public Works Update: Jerry Friedman reported:

- Construction season is open again. Report any accessibility violations in construction zones on See Click Fix or let Jerry or Kate know.
- The first public meeting on the River Street design was well attended.
- DPW will be conducting a few topic-specific public walks with City staff in the next few months, including one on accessibility. They will be posted on DPW's website.
- The City is applying for an Accessible Design Award for Public Architecture and Facilities from the Boston Society of Architects for the reconstruction of 15 miles of streets and sidewalks on Huron Ave. It's important to think of public infrastructure as facilities, and not just buildings.

Executive Director's Report:

- The Disability Policy Consortium has a sample letter that commissions on disability can send about the hiring of a new Executive Director of the AAB. They also have a phone script for folks interesting in calling the Governor's office. Statute states that the Executive Director must be hired by the AAB, but the Division on Professional Licensure is not going by the statute and have convened a hiring committee.
- The Cambridge Public Health Department will be conducting focus groups on health issues that affect persons with disabilities in Cambridge on Monday, May 13 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at 115 Windsor Street. A

light dinner and childcare will be provided. Additionally, there is an online community survey on health concerns (<https://sites.google.com/challiance.org/ahealthycityforall/>), which is open until May 18.

- The City's pedestrian ordinance is written in such a way that folks using power chairs are not considered pedestrians, which is an issue when looking at micromobility issues and regulations. The City and state are looking at how to come up with regulations that cover different forms of micromobility, such as recreational scooters, bikes, etc. This is an inadvertent mistake in the City ordinance that we want to fix to be sure power chair users are not lumped in with micromobility regulations. Rachel asked for feedback from the Board.
- Rachel also attends a biweekly meeting on recreational, two-wheel scooters. Scooter companies are wanting to do business in various cities and towns and want to have influence on upcoming state statutes and regulations on micromobility. Under current statutes, scooters are not street legal because they do not have turn signals. The City's Law Dept has advised that City can't allow them on the roads until turn signals are added or the state changes the regulations. Cambridge is working with neighboring communities on this, as well.
- Pending official written approval from the City, Rachel and Kate will be attending the first ever National Convening of Municipal Leaders Focused on Persons with Disabilities in NYC the second week in May. People will be coming from all over the country.
- Rachel asked members if they would like to discuss AAB variances in meetings.
 - Kate noted that some variances are time sensitive and cannot wait until the next meeting, so it was decided that Rachel will make a spreadsheet of the variances we get.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported:

- We are working on getting the Board vacancies posted. Staff expressed some accessibility concerns over the online application process that the City Manager's Office uses and requested permission to allow applicants to email their resumes and letters of interest rather than using the online portal. The City Manager's Office has referred the matter to the City Solicitor. Staff is waiting to hear back from the Solicitor.
- ReelAbilities Boston Film Festival had its most successful year. CCPD partnered with them again, screening *Defiant Lives* at the Cambridge Library, with around 100 people attending.
- Christina Giacobbe, the Director of Emergency Communications, will present on the new Text to 9-1-1 option and the department's work in general at the May meeting.
- CCPD will be participating in Science in the City this year; it's on Friday, April 12 from 2-6 p.m. and is a kickstart to the annual Cambridge Science Festival. We will have an informational table, and will be giving a presentation on service animals, and screening the documentary *Unrest*, a film by and about a Harvard Ph.D student who becomes inexplicably ill, unable to get out of bed. Doctors told her it was "all in her head." She was eventually diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
 - CCPD purchased a license for unlimited screenings of this film, so it can be shown at other events, as well.
- There has been a string of lawsuits filed against Cambridge businesses alleging ADA violations. Kate did a site visit to Aram's Pizza, 345 Cambridge St., to speak with the owners about physical barriers to their business. Other entities being sued include the Inman Square location of 1369 Coffee House and Mr. Bartley's Burgers in Harvard Square.
- Amy Allen is developing a map of City Hall showing accessibility features. There will be a survey in next week's AccessLetter asking folks for input as to which features they'd like to be included.

- Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert is no longer CCPD's Police liaison. Deputy Dan Wagner will be taking his place and is happy to attend meetings and be of assistance in anyway possible. However, he would like to know if CCPD would prefer that he attend each meeting or come upon request. He wants to be respectful of CCPD members' wishes. Deputy Wagner oversees night operations and will be heading up a racial profiling prevention initiative that is being launched in the near future. Prior to his promotion to Deputy Superintendent last fall, he worked in crime analysis and with data.
- The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) is planning to roll out a new app to its police officers that will help them communicate more effectively with deaf victims, witnesses or perpetrators of crime. Through this new policy, the SFPD is planning to give police officers access to a video chatting app on their phones that will connect them to a sign language interpreter, bring them on to a crime scene directly. City Council has issued an order asking the Emergency Communications Dept. and CCPD to look into offering a similar service.
- River Festival is on Saturday, June 1 from 11am-6pm.
- We will again be participating in PARK(ing) Day in September. Let Kate know if you have any creative ideas as to what to use our space for. We will be located in Porter Square this year.
- We are appealing an AAB decision to grant a variance for Little Crepe Café at 102 Oxford St., allowing them to get a portable ramp instead of constructing a permanent one.

Old Business

- Phil reported on Rise Up, the accessible makerspace he is working on developing. Phil said that Gary is working with him on it and that he has worked on it a lot with MIT. It will be a space for PWD to build devices they need. They designed a new stand up chair, which won first prize at the MIT AT Hackathon. The stand up chair is on display at 245 Main Street. Phil is planning to have an event, Portraits of Resilience from 6-8 p.m. on April 26. He would like to provide a makerspace for hackathon contestants to continue working on their product after the contest is over. They want to raise money for the AT makerspace; a portion of the sales of the stand up chair will go to funding to makerspace.
- Someone else is developing a wearable wristband that alerts people with vision disabilities to the environment.
- Phil would like to have a letter of support from the Commission to use when he applies for grants. He will bring a sample letter to the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman