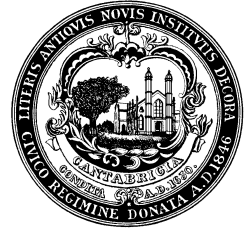


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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Alicia Zeh-Dean

Chair

Valerie Hammond

Secretary

Gary Dmytryk

Jerry Friedman

Stelios Gragoudas

Nicole Horton-Stimpson

Philibert Kongtcheu

Luis Loya

Julie Miller

Rachel Tanenhaus

Executive Director/

ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman

Project Coordinator

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 14, 2019 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.

- | | | |
|--|---------|--|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Approval of January 10 Minutes | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 4. Presentation on the AAB Bill | 40 min. | Lenny Somervell,
Disability Policy Consortium |
| 5. Update on Accessible Makerspace
in Cambridge | 15 min. | Phil Kongtcheu |
| 6. Chair's Report | 10 min. | Alicia Zeh-Dean |
| <i>Discussion on Setting CCPD Meeting Guidelines</i> | | |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 8. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 9. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 10. Old Business | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| 11. 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, March 14, 2019

Approved 3/14/19

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, February 14, 2019

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:36pm

Present

Members: Gary Dmytryk, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Jerry Friedman, Valerie Hammond, Philibert Kongtcheu, and Alicia Zeh-Dean

Absent: Stelios Gragoudas, Luis Loya, and Julie Miller

Staff: Kate Thurman and Rachel Tanenhaus

Guest Speaker: Lenny Somervell, Disability Policy Consortium

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from January 10, 2019 Meeting
- Letter by Carol Steinberg

Minutes:

A motion to accept the January 10 minutes was seconded and passed.

Presentation on the AAB Bill: Lenny Somervell, Lead Organizer at the Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) presented:

Disability advocates have been trying to pass An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board (AAB) for the past 19 years, currently labeled HB 2021 and SD814. This bill expands the jurisdiction of the AAB to cover employee-only spaces; the AAB currently only has jurisdiction over public use spaces.

Additionally, there is currently a loop hole in adaptability requirements in the housing building code. The AAB does not have the jurisdiction to require adaptability for buildings built prior to 1991. Making buildings adaptable means that they can make inaccessible spaces accessible without doing structural work. This means that even non-residential buildings constructed prior to 1991 that are being renovated and turned into housing are not required to meet AAB code.

This bill will address barriers to the employment of people with disabilities (PWD), as well as the lack of accessible housing units. It will also bring AAB regulations into compliance with the ADA, eliminating much confusion for architects, who now must design in compliance with two codes – the ADA and AAB.

This legislative season, the bill has 41 co-sponsors, which is more than it's ever had before, although advocates are hoping to get more sponsors in the senate. People can do a search by either their representative or the bill online at www.malegislature.gov to see who has signed on to the bill.

Lenny said that it's very important for PWD to continually remind their representatives about this bill and its importance. This can be done by calling or emailing them or visiting their offices.

Advocates recently learned that this bill has some strong opposition from three industry groups:

- Associated Industries of Massachusetts, an employer's lobbying group who argue that the bill is redundant because employee-only spaces are covered by the ADA. However, the ADA is reactive rather than proactive; it is enforced through the courts.
- NAIOP (which no longer stands for anything), the largest the commercial real estate developers lobby in the state. They want a guarantee that it will be easy to follow the law and not get sued. They are worried about leasing agreements. DPC is working with them, trying to reach a consensus.
- Greater Boston Real Estate Association, which does not like any regulation on real estate development, sales, or tenancy because it could cut into their profit margin.

Lenny suggested some strategies to use in advocating for the passage of this bill:

- Asking elected officials who do not support the bill why they hate civil rights.
- Getting groups that have frequent contact with the AAB to come forward in support of the bill.
- Having small business owners who think that accessibility is important to come forward in support of this – “the poor little guy is out here struggling to follow very complicated codes and accidentally is in violation.”
- Giving personal testimony about the importance of the issues that the bill seeks to resolve. Lobbyists try to convince lawmakers that the issues do not actually exist. Lawmakers need to hear personal testimony about why employee spaces need to be physically accessible, why it matters that there be a potentially large stock of accessible housing, and what it means when those things do and don't exist. It would be helpful to have personal testimony from, for example:
 - People who have struggled in an employment situation due to lack of accessibility
 - People who haven't been able to get a job because of it. For example, they showed up for a job interview but couldn't get into the building, etc.

Individuals can submit written testimony or testify in person.

- Helping lawmakers understand that not everybody follows the ADA.
- Asking individual legislators to support the bill, especially those who are on the Ways and Means Committee.
- Make it a moral issue where not taking a stance on it will get you in more trouble than taking a stance on it. Use social media and write op-eds for local newspapers.

Update on Accessible Makerspace in Cambridge: Phil reported:

Rise Up is a project to try to create a specialized accessible makerspace in Cambridge as a place of experimentation. It could be used as vocational training for PWD. Phil has been working on this for a year and would like to see that members would like to join and be part of a task force in support of the project.

He has explored several places in Cambridge where the makerspace could be located, with varying results.

In order to get grants to support the makerspace, Rise Up has to register as a 501C3 non-profit; Phil is looking for board members to help advance this.

Chair's Report: Alicia Zeh-Dean reported:

She discussed CCPD meeting guidelines, with the following main points:

- Promote equal participation of all members
- Time management: be respectful of time
- Listen to all voices
- Be present
- Support decision making

Public Works Update: Jerry Friedman reported:

- River Street design – DPW had a well-attended working group meeting on the River Street design. The next meeting is February 26 from 6-8pm at the Manning Apartments, where they will be discussing current conditions. The first public meeting on the design is scheduled for March 26, location TBD.
- There will be a public design charette on Carl Barron Plaza this spring
- Find more information online at www.Cambridgema.gov/RiverStreet

Executive Director's Report: Rachel Tanenhaus reported:

- A focus group for the Community Needs Health Assessment by the Cambridge Public Health Department will be held for PWD on May 13.
- There will be a state employment career fair for PWD on April 5, on how you can get a job with the state. It will be held at the Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza in Boston.
- Rachel toured the Cambridge Emergency Operations Center at the police department. They have offered to give the board a tour and to let us meet there.
- She co-presented at MA Continuing Legal Education on service animals and emotional support animals.
- CCPD has given technical assistance on the Inman Square project.
- She and Kate met with Liz Speakman, Coordinator of the City's Domestic and Gender Based Violence Prevention Initiative and staff from Boston Area Rape Crisis Center to discuss ways on how we can work on preventing sexual assault against PWD.
- Rachel sat on the selection committee for interviewing applicants for designing a universally designed playground that will be located at Danehy Park. They will be announcing the selection soon.
- She has been delivering the disability portion of required diversity training for new hires.
- The Library has an ADA accessible pod for breastfeeding parents. They also just purchased a sound proof meeting pod that is ADA accessible.
- She presented our request for capital budget funds, which went well.
- Rachel is working with the Cradles to Career Pipeline, which is working on math literacy in the schools. There is a connection between disparities and math literacy. There are huge racial and gender disparities around math literacy. She is part of the working group.
- A letter by Carol Steinberg about the appointment of a new Executive Director of the MAAB was read. Several agencies and individuals have signed on to it.
 - A motion for CCPD to sign on to the letter was seconded and passed
- The City is getting ready to put out a press release about CCPD board vacancies

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman