

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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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 Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities is holding an abbreviated meeting online via Zoom on Thursday, June 8, 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 | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Vote on Summer Recess | 2 min. | CCPD Board |
| <i>Members will decide whether to take July or August off</i> | | |
| 4. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 5. Staff Report | 5 min. | |
| 6. Public Input | 5 min. | general public |
| <i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | | |

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 either Thursday, July 13 or August 10
(vote will be held this evening as to when to take summer recess)

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, June 8, 2023 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril dePagter (Chair), Jerry Friedman, Valerie Hammond, Deepti Nijhawan, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Mary Devlin (Secretary), Robert Goss, Keisha Greaves, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Danielle Jones-McLaughlin

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus & Kate Thurman

Announcements:

- Dan reported in on the first Mass Ave. Working group meeting. Next meeting is June 22. Members were asked to check out the relevant areas and get familiar with them.

Summer Recess:

- Members voted on whether to take July or August off for summer recess. The motion to take August off passed unanimously.

Public Works Update:

Jerry reported the following:

- The Mass Ave. Partial Construction Working Group will meet in June and have a formal report in September or October.
- Construction continues:
 - New trees have been planted in Inman Square, and the cool weather is helping.
 - Work is starting on River Street.
- Rachel and Jerry are both involved in the Urban Design Guidelines project. The working group first discussed the overall vision for creating new Urban Design Guidelines for Cambridge but is now talking about the meat of guidelines. Recently the group discussed sidewalk materials.
- The new edition of the Five-Year Plan for Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction is not yet complete, but when it is, we can ask for a presentation on it from DPW. Jerry gave an overview of how the data are collected for the Five-Year Plan. Please report individual issues with streets and sidewalks to See Click Fix.

Staff Report:

Rachel reported the following:

- The City Solicitor's office will provide a training to Board members on Open Meeting Laws but would prefer not to do so during a public meeting so that Board members may ask questions freely. Rachel will e-mail the Board to find suitable days of the week and times and then work with the City Solicitor's office to schedule the training.
- A variance request was submitted to the MA Architectural Access Board (MAAB) for a newly constructed residential building at 747 Cambridge Street, and Rachel has sent in a letter of opposition on behalf of CCPD. The design team requested a variance from MAAB requirements because they had not designed the building in compliance with the requirements, specifically the provisions regarding elevators. They have since built the

building, despite not having received the variance. MAAB moved to hold a hearing to discuss the variance, which will take place in September. Rachel will provide further testimony at the hearing.

- Rachel has been attending meetings regarding installation of bike lanes on Mass Ave.
- Rachel attended, but did not speak at, the City Council hearing on the budget for Fiscal Year 2024. CCPD's budget was accepted without question or comment.
- Rachel is participating in the City's working group and steering committee to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan to address and plan for the impact of natural hazards and disasters.
- On June 1, representatives from several major cities' Mayor's Commissions on Disability met with US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to make suggestions regarding transportation policy as it impacts people with disabilities. Rachel participated virtually, representing Cambridge. This group had submitted a policy memo to Secretary Buttigieg, and as a result he offered to meet with the group. The meeting went well and Secretary Buttigieg seemed receptive to the group's ideas and committed to full participation and access for people with disabilities.
- Kate and Rachel attended the National ADA Symposium virtually and as always it was highly worthwhile and educational.
- Rachel noted that the CCPD office has experienced an uptick in accommodations requests from city employees with disabilities, and is pleased that more people are requesting and receiving what they need.

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Tanenhaus