

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · Relay via 711 · 617-349-4766 fax



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, September 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM

****Please note the change in time; for this month only, CCPD will meet from 6:00—7:00 PM****

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 6:00 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. Approval of May & June Minutes | 4 min. | CCPD Board |
| <i>See page 4 of this agenda packet for May minutes</i> | | |
| <i>Page 36 for June minutes</i> | | |
| 4. Working Group Updates | 15 min. | |
| 5. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Jerry Friedman & Melissa Miguel |
| <i>Introduction of new DPW Liaison</i> | | |
| 6. CEOC Planning of City Council & School Committee Candidate Forum | 15 min. | CEOC Staff & CCPD Board |
| 7. Staff Report | 5 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 8. Public Input | 3 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 Thursday, October 12 from 5:30-7:00 PM

Members of the public: See instructions on following pages on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom

Approved 10/26/23

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, September 14, 2023 CCPD Meeting

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM

Present:

Members: Avril dePagter (Chair), Jerry Friedman, Keisha Greaves, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Danielle Jones-McLaughlin, and Deepti Nijhawan

Absent: Loring Brinckerhoff, Mary Devlin (Secretary), Robert Goss, Valeria Hammond, and Dan Stubbs

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus & Kate Thurman

Guest Speaker: Melissa Miguel and Rachel Plummer

Announcements:

- The MA Department of Public Health is doing a statewide health needs assessment of people with disabilities, including an online survey
- Alice Wong has an interesting blog post on her website about the BU School of Public Health asking her not to speak about certain things during the presentation many of us just watched
- MA Department of Transportation is holding a public meeting on the planned Eliot Bridget Preservation work on September 21 at 6:30 PM at the Fiorentino Center, 123 Antwerp Street, Allston, MA

Minutes

- A motion to approve the May minutes was seconded and passed unanimously
- A motion to approve the June minutes was seconded and passed unanimously

Working Group Updates:

- Avril reported that the community outreach group met with Kate and Rachel and some staff from the Boston Disability Commission. The Boston Commission has a much larger staff (11), including dedicated outreach staff. They do three main events each year:
 - A town hall meeting for the disability community
 - A civic engagement event teaching residents how to become involved and provide public input to the City of Boston
 - ADA Day each July celebrating the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- A few members expressed interest in learning more about the work of the Boston Commission. It was noted that their monthly meetings are open to the public.

Public Works Update:

Jerry reported the following:

- This is Jerry's last CCPD meeting, as he is being moved to the Bicycle Committee. He introduced Melissa Miguel, another Senior Supervising Engineer at DPW who will be taking his place on the CCPD advisory board.
- The Inman Square project is complete, with new traffic patterns and crosswalk improvements.

- Gore Street reconstruction in East Cambridge is essentially complete, with lots of sidewalk improvements and a multi-use path.
- Pedestrian improvements on Belmont Street near Mt. Auburn are almost finished.
- There is a new park under construction on Binney Street in the Kendall Sq area. They are working on landscaping and the installation of a path through it.
- North First Street now connects Cambridge Crossing with the rest of First Street south of Lechmere MBTA station. This opened in June
- River Street reconstruction is still in process, with lots of utility work going on. Getting closer to Central, some pedestrian re-routing will happen.
- There will be a formal presentation coming later this fall on the Mass Ave Partial Build project, which a partial redo of Mass Ave from Cambridge Common to Alewife as part of Cycling Safety Ordinance
- Chapter 90 projects, which are misc. projects, include Huron Ave with bike lane improvements, Park Ave, Walden St., Webster St.
- The Five-Year Street and Sidewalk Plan has been updated and will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Updated from the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)

- Rachel Plummer, Associate Director of CEOC, reported that they are hosting a City Council candidate forum on Thursday, October 12th at the YWCA at 7 Temple Street from 6-8PM. The building is accessible. Planning to provide CART captioning. They are hoping that CCTV will be able to film and broadcast and help them make it a hybrid event. They will also have interpreters for Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Bangla, and Amharic speaking audience members.
- The format is still in flux, but there will be a survey sent to candidates ahead of time to be completed in writing.
- CEOC staff met with Kate and Rachel to discuss how to make the forum as inclusive as possible for people with disabilities. Kate and Rachel recommended that everyone use microphones when speaking, and having people say their names when they speak
- Kate noted that the forum conflicts with the October CCPD meeting. If folks were interested in rescheduling our meeting so they can attend the forum, that can be done.
- This forum has been held during past election cycles. In the past, it's been held at the Senior Center. CEOC is hoping more people will come with it being held at the YWCA.
- There are 24 candidates running. In the past, almost everyone has attended, so likely to have 20-24 candidates in attendance.
- Members raised issues they would like to see discussed at the forum:
 - Providing more support for children with disabilities in out of school time programs
 - The need for more accessible & affordable housing
 - A desire for disability housing that is separate from senior housing and making disabled housing more inclusive.
 - The shortage of PCAs/home health aides and the possibility of creating a home health aide program.

Staff Report:

Rachel reported the following:

- Rachel thanked Jerry for his 7 years as a CCPD member and DPW liaison and welcomed Melissa Miguel as our new liaison
- Rachel will check in with Ellen about moving the October CCPD meeting so that members may attend the City Council Candidate Forum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Thurman