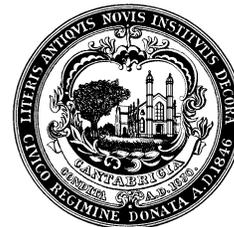


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Chair

Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Sandy Durmaskin
Kara Falise
Maria Fontellio
Zahra Kanji
Bet MacArthur
Naomi Pinson
Alicia Zeh-Dean

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

Katie Ashwill
Pro Bono Associate

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, December 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

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

- | | | |
|---|--------|------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approve Minutes for November 12 | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 1 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 5 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| 5. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 6. Executive Director's Report | 5 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 7. Project Coordinator's Report
<i>Summary of the State Conflict of Interest Law</i> | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 8. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 9. Old Business | 1 min. | |
| 10. New Business | 1 min. | |

After a short Commission meeting, we will adjourn for a Holiday Potluck Gathering in the room next door.

Bring some festive refreshments to share.

Invite family and friends of the Commission!

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.



Approved 1/14/2016

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, December 10, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:39PM

Present

Members: Debbie Cheng, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, Gary Dymtryk, Maria Fontellio, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Zahra Kanji.

Absent: Naomi Pinson, Bet MacArthur, and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

Alternates: Donald Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from November 12

Minutes:

A motion to approve the November 12, 2015 was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report: Nicole Horton-Stimpson proposed two dates, January 27 and February 11, for CCPD to visit Gateway Arts and is waiting to hear back from them.

She also said that she is researching more about The Ride in preparation for writing a letter about proposed cuts to service and increased fares.

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng said that the private construction moratorium was scheduled for November 25, but due to the warm weather, DPW has allowed some projects to continue. DPW's paving moratorium started at the end of October because there is a higher chance of pavement not curing properly after that time.

Police Liaison's Update: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert said that the Police Department and License Commission are looking for ways to improve the taxi industry in Cambridge and have been holding meetings to discuss this. He said that they are seeking recommendations from all interested parties, including police officers, the insurance industry that regulates taxis, customers, etc. Deputy Superintendent Albert also said that representatives from both Uber and Lyft have been attending the meetings, as well. The group was appointed by the city manager, not open to the public. He reported that Uber is piloting a new program in Boston called Uber Assist where they will partner with wheelchair accessible taxicabs to provide accessible transportation. He also reported that Lyft is looking at partnering with The Ride. He said that just two years ago, there was a waiting list for taxi drivers to attend the Cambridge Taxi school and that classes are now often being cancelled due to low enrollment, noting that drivers are buying their own cars now and driving for Uber or Lyft rather than renting taxicabs.

Michael Muehe told Deputy Superintendent Albert that CCPD staff routinely provide disability awareness trainings to businesses that operate in Cambridge.

Deputy Superintendent Albert said that there are currently three legislative bills pending in the Commonwealth regarding regulations for ride sharing companies.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that advocates will be meeting at the State House at 9:30am on Wednesday, December 16 to support bill S1323, which would allow the MAAB to have full jurisdiction over buildings in the Commonwealth, including employee-only areas, which are currently exempt from MAAB regulations. Some groups have been fighting this bill for years and there seems to now be a critical mass of disability rights activists. This bill is being led by the MA Chapter of the MS Society, which has hired a lobbyist. The activists will go around to speak with their legislators asking for their support on this bill. The bill will set the stage for having a single accessibility code. Currently, architects and builders must look at both the ADA standards and state AAB standards and figure out which will result in greater accessibility. This bill will allow the MAAB to apply to the DOJ for equivalency certification, meaning that architects only have to follow MAAB, which will be brought into line with the ADA standards, which will eliminate a lot of confusion and errors. Will be much easier with a single set of codes.

Mr. Muehe noted that some architects want the International Building Code to replace the state AAB code, but the state regulations are stricter in terms of requiring greater accessibility.

He reminded members to vote for projects to be funded by the City's participatory budget. There are 24 projects that made the ballot, including one for a universally designed playground.

He reported that he and Gary Dmytryk visited the Harvard Art Museum. The Museum is accessible, but it's difficult if you're taking The Ride because two of the streets are one-way, so drop-off is on the opposite side of the street. He reported that Harvard is developing a signage plan to indicate accessible entrances. The entrance off of Broadway is the easiest to use when taking The Ride.

Elizabeth Dean-Clower noted that the Museum has an area for visitors to look through items in the collection that are not on display, but that the glass doors leading to this room are very heavy and there is no automatic door opener. Michael Muehe will email the Museum with this concern.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26PM

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman