

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, November 8, 2018

*****1:00 p.m.*****

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair

Virginia DeSorgher

Margo Campbell

Cynthia Dodge (present by phone)

Also present:

MJ Adams, Acting ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield

Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant for the Community & Economic Development Department

Members absent:

Douglas Mayo

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

The meeting was recorded by Ms. Fordham, using the voice recorder belonging to the CED department. Ms. Fordham offered that the recorder was available for CDA use from the CDE office.

Approval of Minutes:

October 11, 2018 minutes – Ms. Adams corrected her title in the October minutes as Greenfield Acting ADA coordinator. Ms. Campbell moved to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. DeSorgher seconded. Minutes approved 3-0 (with one abstention).

July 12, 2018 minutes – Ms. DeSorgher moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Ms. Campbell seconded. Minutes approved 3-0 to approve (with one abstention).

Open Issues:

ADA Evaluation and transitional plan

Ms. Adams reported that the ADA Transition plan was filed with the MA Office on Disability in June, and that an excel copy of the matrices from the report were requested so that they can be kept updated and prioritized. A grant has been submitted to the Mass MA Office on Disability for \$250K, which would be matched by \$50K in CDBG funds that are being made available from FY17 program. These funds would address high-use, poor-condition sidewalks; curb cuts; parking outside Veteran's Service Office. Notification should come in early December if the grant is approved. If approved, all work should be complete by June 2019. If the grant is not approved, \$50K in CDBG funds is still earmarked for this work, identifying priority sidewalks.

Ms. Adams reported that the ADA Transition Plan is also being used to help inform project allocation for the FY19 grant due in late February. She has been meeting with the DPW director, making sure streets and sidewalks are ADA compliant. The focus is on West, Deerfield, and Hope Streets for block grant funding for sidewalks, and some drainage and water issues. Ms. Campbell asked about Bank Row sidewalks, and Ms. Adams reported they were finished the day prior, that the area by Pocket Park was also complete and that Wells Street sidewalks were 100% complete.

Ms. Adams suggested the CDA look at the transition plan and identify areas other than sidewalks that CDA could suggest as priorities for CDBG funding. She suggested that the CDA offer comment at the Nov. 29th CDBG public hearing. Ms. DeSorgher asked what else qualified for these funds. Ms. Adams said the retrofitting of existing buildings (with the exception of schools). Ms. Campbell asked if funds could be used for accessibility upgrades at the Garden Cinema, and Ms. Adams confirmed that funds can be used for architectural barrier removal for private property owners. Ms. Adams said comments can also be emailed to her in advance of the public hearing.

Garden Cinema

Ms. DeSorgher reported on the status of accessibility complaints with the Garden Cinema. There is no elevator/lift access to theaters 6 and 7, and the lift that services theaters 1-5 is broken, although it has been reported as functioning. In addition, wheelchair seating in several theaters does not have level platforms. A request to the owner for a posting that the lift was not functioning was not fulfilled. The owner is being called for a hearing with the Architectural Access Board in January. The owner is past the timeline for the corrections previously established by the AAB.

Ms. Adams affirmed that a public facility has an obligation to be accessible and meet requirements. As an eligible activity, CDBG funds can be requested to address architectural barrier removal, although this is not a currently funded activity.

Ms. Adams left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Ms. DeSorgher will be attending the AAB hearing, and will email Ms. Dodge and Ms. Fordham a copy of complaint.

People's Bank

Ms. DeSorgher reported that a complaint was filed for two doors needing push buttons at People's Bank. She spoke with the manager on a Thursday, and on the following Monday received a call from the regional manager that the request was in to address the doors, that it should be done soon and if she didn't see if fixed within the next three weeks to call him again. Ms. Desorger will recheck within the next two weeks.

Ms. DeSorgher noted that TDBank doesn't have electric doors, and that she would go in person to meet with the manager. Ms. Kelley said she would follow up with the complainant for People's Bank.

60 Wells St. repairs

Ms. DeSorgher explained there was a complaint with the parking lot, which doesn't drain properly. She has taken photos of the lot both wet and dry. She reported the storm drain was plugged up. Ms. Dodge also noted that there are no accessible doors at the shelter; there is ramp to shelter, but

door is heavy and doesn't open to 90 degree angle and pause. Getting into office, the desk protrudes into the passage for the doorway. The door has automatic closer, but no automatic opener, and doesn't stay open long enough to pass through. Ms. Dodge suggested writing up complaint and sending to owners with cover letter.

Treasurer's report

Ms. Campbell reported that the general fund balance is \$297, the handicapped parking fund fees is \$1,884. Ms. Dodge asked what the funds might be used for. Ms. DeSorgher suggested a door pressure measurer, and a 24" digital level. It was agreed that these two items should be purchased. Members discussed several options for tape measures, and a phone to allow remote meeting participation for commissioners.

Personal emergency preparedness program

Ms. Campbell reported that the program has been announced in Senior Center newsletter, to be held 12/7 10-12 pm. Sign up is at the Senior Center in person or by phone. Ms. DeSorgher asked about additional outreach to other disabled members of community (not just seniors). Ms. Campbell said a flyer will be distributed as well, listed with Valley Medical, Community Health, Library, ServiceNet. Ms. Campbell suggested contacting the fire department, emergency management, and Ms. DeSorgher agreed to contact them.

Accessibility when voting at the high school

Ms. Kelley reported that she had no difficulty voting at the high school. Ms. Campbell noted that the flow of people is difficult on the way out. When school is in session there is still an issue because people have to use front door and ring bell, after hours event works the same way.

New Business

Ms. Dodge agreed to be the CDA rep on the FRTA Advisory Board, as they are seeking someone with a disability who has experience with transportation

issues and understands those difficulties and needs. Ms. Dodge noted she has personal experience with all services offered by FRTA.

Ms. Dodge requested that the US Dept of Justice rules/regulations on accessibility design and construction requirement for covered multi-family dwellings under the fair housing act be added to the agenda for the next meeting. She would like the CDA to discuss issues concerning multi-family dwellings with accessibility issues.

Ms. DeSorgher requested the printing of materials received at her recent training. Ms. Fordham agreed to print the sections she needs.

Ms. Dodge requested adding a discussion of the needs of the disabled homeless to next meeting's agenda. Ms. DeSorgher reported she will be on the Homeless Task Force as the Planning Board Rep. Ms. Dodge would like to see a CDA rep on that committee as well.

Ms. DeSorgher asked if the committee would like to make a statement regarding accessibility at public meetings locations. She asked if she should make a statement at the next council meeting, or submit a letter to the council. Ms. Kelley said she would review the list of places where meetings take place.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on March 14, 2019, at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

Ms. DeSorgher moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47