

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, March 14, 2019

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

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair

Virginia DeSorgher

Margo Campbell

Cynthia Dodge, Vice Chair

Douglas Mayo

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:

None

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

The meeting was recorded by Ms. Fordham, using the voice recorder belonging to the CED department.

Approval of Minutes:

November 8, 2018 minutes – Ms. Dodge moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. DeSorgher seconded. Minutes approved as amended 4-0 with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report: The budget was reviewed and Ms. Dodge asked about the purchase of supplies from the general account and the handicapped parking fund. It was explained these supplies (digital level and door pressure guage) were approved for purchase at the last meeting, and came out of the Handicapped parking budget. It was not clear what the 79.99 charge for office supplies was. Ms. Fordham agreed to report back to the CDA on this charge. Ms. Kelley reminded the group that another possible expenditure

could be a phone for remote access to meetings. Ms. Campbell suggested using a laptop and a remote meeting program such as Zoom. Ms. Campbell asked in Handicapped funds would roll over into the next fiscal year. Ms. Adams explained that if funds are not Town appropriated it does roll over. Ms. Dodge said that the general budget did not roll over. Ms. Campbell suggested that the \$202 in the remaining general budget should be used by the end of the fiscal year, since it will not roll over. Ms. Desorgher felt it should be spent if needed, but returned to City if not needed. There was discussing about the potential impact on the budget if the existing funds were not spent by end of fiscal year.

There was general discussion of covering expenses of refreshments for particular events, which budgets could be used, and soliciting donations from local merchants.

Ms. Dodge moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and Ms. DeSorgher seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

Open Issues:

ADA Evaluation and transitional plan

Ms. Adams reported that the City did not receive the Mass Office on Disabilities grant of \$250,000 for sidewalks repair (with contained a match of City funds approved by the Mayor for \$50,000). She will meet with MOD in April to get feedback. Ms. Adams noted that MOD grant is an annual opportunity; feedback will help with next year's application.

Ms. Kelley noted an issue with the Library. A quote of \$64,000 was stated as being necessary to bring the current library up to code. Clarification was offered this figure was for identified repairs, but was not a figure that would bring Library up to ADA standard, and that this fact was not communicated well in the general public. Ms. Campbell asked if the CDA could communicate that to the City Council. Ms. DeSorgher felt that the Council understands the difference between this quote for bare minimum measures and full ADA compliance.

There was a general discussion about when the push button switch is active and not active at the High School, and how to address that for public meetings

in particular. It was agreed that the CDA would urge the school to have the access available when aware of a public meeting.

Garden Cinema

Ms. Kelley reported that the Garden Cinema had a hearing scheduled in January that Ms. Desorgher had planned to attend, but that the Executive Director of the Architectural Access Board had passed away and the hearing was rescheduled for April 3rd, at the AAB. Ms. Desorgher said she may be able to attend.

FRTA

Ms. Dodge confirmed that she has joined the Executive Board, and they will meet next week.

Personal Preparedness Program

Ms. Campbell reported good attendance, that no Police Officers attended, but that the Fire Chief did come later in the program. It was agreed for future meetings a good idea to send out reminders of the event. Smart911, an online emergency awareness portal, was discussed. Ms. Campbell reported that she started the registration process for it, but that there is a lot of information required.

CAM Training (Community Access Monitoring Program)

Ms. Kelley suggested that Greenfield host a two-day CAM training, but locating it at the Senior Center would be challenging. Ms. Campbell suggested Hawks & Reed. Ms. Adams suggested the Transit Center as an alternative location, which is next to the garage, and has accessible parking spots. Ms. Dodge noted bus access would also be available at the Olver center. Ms. Dodge said she would contact the Olver Center and see about availability for next spring. Ms. Kelley said she would check the MOD schedule for fall or spring openings for a training.

ADA Coordinator

Ms. Adams reported that the hire of a Community Development Administrator was on hold for the time being, with that position eventually serving as the ADA Coordinator. Until that position is filled, Ms. Adams is

the Acting ADA Coordinator. Ms. Adams noted there was discussion of responsibilities of ADA coordinator being split with HR, but not currently being pursued due to lean staffing in HR.

New Business

Franklin County Bar Association

Ms. Kelley received a call from Benjamin Semanski in regard to a FCBA hosted event at Garden Cinema, which is not accessible. Mr. Semanski apologized, and wanted to know if CDA would be interested in Brown Bag brainstorming for events around ADA issues. It was agreed it was a very good idea. Ms. DeSorgher noted it must be at an accessible space. Ms. Kelley proposed an initial meeting with FCBA members to brainstorm issues, i.e. employment, accessibility, housing, etc., and said she would get back to the CDA with possible dates.

US Dept of Justice Accessibility and Design Rules and Regulations

Ms. Dodge wanted to discuss how these rules and regulations apply to certain private properties. Ms. Dodge suggested that 53 Pleasant should have been built to these requirements, but was not. Ms. Dodge suggested asking Jeff Dugan of MOD to come and explain the requirements to the CDA.

Ms. DeSorgher said her understanding from Eric Twarog was that this building was not required to be ADA, because it was privately funded. She said she would check with Mr. Twarog again to confirm.

Ms. DeSorgher noted that regulations are complex and challenging to keep straight. Ms. Adams noted the “feasibility” factor is part the process.

Ms. DeSorgher suggested that someone from Planning and Zoning come to a couple of CDA meetings to discuss. Ms. Dodge said she would like to contact MOD on this issue for their input. Ms. DeSorgher said she would check with the City first, and if not satisfied as of next month’s meeting, could approach MOD, and this was generally agreed.

Announcements

Ms. Kelley attended a LifePath presentation, and distributed materials from LifePath. She noted that LifePath will come to your home to review services available if necessary, and that services are not limited to the elderly.

Ms. DeSorgher asked if anyone from town was going to the Garden Cinema hearing (no one knew of anyone) and said she would try to attend. Ms. DeSorgher also reported that the Planning Board is working on “zoning tables,” and the CDA should be looking at the zoning book in terms of accessible housing.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on April 11, 2019, at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

Ms. DeSorgher moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Mayo seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28