

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, May 9, 2019

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

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair

Virginia DeSorgher

Margo Campbell

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:

Cynthia Dodge, Vice Chair

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

April 11, 2019 minutes – Ms. Campbell moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Mayo seconded. Minutes approved 4-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Campbell reported that the Handicapped Parking Fund balance increased to 2,401.05, and the General Fund balance remains at 202.00. Ms. Kelley motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Mr. Mayo seconded. The report was approved 4-0

Open Issues:

ADA Evaluation and transitional plan

Ms. Adams reported that the City is considering reallocating FY17 block grant funds for architectural barrier removal at several properties who have asked for assistance; reallocation of funds requires a public meeting for citizen input. The meeting is scheduled for May 20th, at 4 pm at the John Zon Community Center.

The DPW will be working on improvements on Main street during the summer. Faulty brickwork will be replaced with flush concrete, which will be colored and stamped with a brick pattern. A new curb cut will be installed by the Veteran's service office. Five hydrants will be replaced as well.

Ms. Campbell asked if any FY18 grant funds were available. Ms. Adams said all FY18 funds were currently committed, but could shift.

Ms. DeSorgher asked if Garden Cinema reached out for funds. Ms. Adams said she had called the owner directly. Ms. DeSorgher asked if CDBG funds were only for municipal use, and Ms. Adams explained that they are occasionally provided to private owners, but as 0% deferred loans, and not grants. She explained that currently these activities are only recommendations, and they can only be finalized after the public comment meeting.

Regarding the Massachusetts Office of Disability grant, Ms. Adams said she received feedback from Carl Bryant, the grant administrator. The feedback was that very few grants are given out for the maximum amount (Greenfield requested the maximum of \$250k), and that the MOD looks at who has previously been granted an award and how grants for the cycle are distributed geographically. He said the Greenfield grant was well written and complete, encouraged application in the next round. Ms. Kelly asked what the range was for previous grant amounts, and Ms. Adams said she would look at list of previous grantees for guidance.

Garden Cinema

Ms. Kelly summarized the Architectural Access Board decision regarding the Garden Cinema. Fines were imposed at \$1,000/day, but were in abeyance if the owner installed an updated lift by 7/19/19. Ms. Adams said that Mr. Gohl is working diligently to meet that timeline. Mr. Mayo said he had requested

via his personal facebook page that family and friends boycott the cinema due to delays in the timeline of addressing accessibility, and that the cinema responded that the work was going to be done by June, but they also mentioned the need for \$200,000 for a new roof.

FRTA

The discussion was tabled until Ms. Dodge is in attendance and can provide a report.

CAM Training (Community Access Monitoring Program)

In regard to the CDA hosting a CAM meeting, Ms. Kelley contacted Jeff Dougan at MOD and let him know that the CDA would like to be on the schedule for spring of 2020, and that a location has been determined.

Franklin County Bar Association (FCBA)

Ms. Kelley spoke with Ben Simanski about a joint program with the CDA and the FCBA. He would like to come to next CDA meeting, June 13th, to do a brainstorming, asking CDA to think about ideas that would work jointly with FCBA. Interested in hearing from him what kinds of things FCBA is involved with. Preliminary ideas: basic ADA primer, how it works, where to go for grievances; Title one issues, etc. He is open to any legal issues, things that have come up, bring to meeting.

Pleasant St. Apartment

Regarding the issue of no disability access with new construction on Pleasant St., Ms. DeSorgher said in conversation with Planning Director Eric Twarog that future projects would now come to the CDA for review in the planning stage via the Planning Board. There was some confusion around the exact process for which projects would come to CDA for review. Ms. DeSorgher said she would discuss the CDA review process at next planning board meeting. Ms. Adams said there was need for clarify of process so that mistakes don't happen in the future. CDA review would require meetings

during winter months, which might mean needing remote access meetings. Discussion was tabled at this point for further clarification.

Remote access

Ms. Fordham reported on conversation with IT regarding remote access. General discussion on whether conference phone like one used in Town Hall could be made available at John Zon Center. This only applies to one member attending a meeting via remote access. An entirely remote access meeting via teleconference (e.g., Zoom) would bring up issue with Open Meeting laws, which would need further discussion. Ms. Fordham will follow up on phone possibility.

List of Accessible Businesses

Ms. Kelley said that Stavros has a list that could be used as a starting point for a CDA created list of accessible businesses, and that LifePath might have useful printed materials. It was agreed that a phone app was not feasible.

New Business

Ms. Fordham provided the CDA with an update on a driveway/sidewalk issue brought forth by resident Dominique Thomas DeCellato in YEAR? Ms. Fordham shared a timeline of communication between Ms. DeCellato and several City officials.

Announcements

Ms. Kelley noted the Stavros access awards were upcoming, in case there was someone they wanted to recognize, suggested that Hawks & Reed, and People's Bank as possibilities. Event at the Alderbrook Meadows accessible outdoor recreation area event on Saturday 10-1, to highlight property and its wheelchair accessible connection. Opportunity to try out Freedom chair (all terrain, requires arm work).

Ms. DeSorgher announced that the next planning board meeting on 5/16, 7 p.m. would be looking at "use tables" in all zones.

Ms. DeSorgher gave an update on the Wells St. parking lot. Ms. Adams noted if the issue is architectural barrier removal, block grant funds can be requested, but suggested approaching owner informally. Ms. DeSorgher offered to call owner. Ms. Adams will provide owner's number to Ms. Kelley.

Ms. DeSorgher reported on her conversation with Jeff Dougan at MOD outreach. The CDA decided not to take action on Pleasant St. development, but Mr. Dougan did not agree with consensus. Mr. Dougan said this puts the developer at risk, and something should be done to follow up. Ms. DeSorgher forwarded Mr. Dougan's email to Mark Snow, and will submit email to Robin for inclusion in minutes.

Ms. Adams reported on the lift for stage at Four Corners school, will seek waiver from AAB for this last unresolved issue, and should be completed before start of school.

Ms. Kelley noted that having family members with disabled children on the CDA would be helpful. Ms. DeSorgher said she has inquired in the past, but to date no one has come forward.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on June 13, 2019, at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

Adjournment

Mr. Mayo moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.