

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, June 13, 2019

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

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair

Cynthia Dodge, Vice Chair

Virginia DeSorgher

Douglas Mayo

Members absent:

Margo Campbell

Also present:

MJ Adams, Acting ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield

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

Attorney Benjamin Simanski, Franklin County Bar Association

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.

Approval of Minutes:

May 9, 2019 minutes – Ms. DeSorgher moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Mayo seconded. Minutes approved 3-0, with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Kelley reported that the Handicapped Parking Fund balance remains at \$2,401.05, and the General Fund balance is \$202.01. Mr. Mayo motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Ms. DeSorgher seconded. The report was approved 4-0

Open Issues:

Franklin County Bar Association

Attorney Benjamin Simanski of the Franklin County Bar Association spoke with the members of the CDA about creating an on-going conversation between members of the disability and the FCBA. Possibilities include one-on-one meetings with attorneys to address specific issues, FCBA securing grants to expand legal services, group discussions with attorneys and members of the disability community, possible movie showing followed by a discussion around disability issues represented in the film.

Ms. Dodge spoke about apartment accessibility issues, and wanting to prevent issues before they happen. She also noted that eviction can be an issue when shelters are not accessible. Ms. Kelley suggested going beyond physical barriers to addressing the needs of “invisible” barriers, i.e. cognitive issues/dementia, special needs, mental health issues.

It was agreed to continue communication between CDA and FCBA. Ms. Dodge suggested inviting a representative from MOD as well.

ADA Evaluation and transitional plan

Ms. Kelley has schedule of the application process for the MOD grant, will forward to committee in case of any questions about timeline. There were questions about how much to apply for. The remainder of the discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Garden Cinema

Ms Kelley reported that the deadline for the Garden Cinema lift to be installed is July 9th. She attended the CDBG public hearing where comments were solicited regarding CDBG funds being used to address ABR in private downtown establishments. Funding would be through 0% deferred loan, and was a possibility for the Cinema. Mr. Mayo reported that he received a phone voicemail from (name) after a post regarding the Cinema on his personal

FaceBook page, but he did not respond. Ms. Kelley said she would contact Ms. Adams to obtain an update on the progress of the lift at the Cinema.

Remote access

Current intention is to purchase special conference call phone to allow one members to call in to meeting if they are not physically able to attend. Ms. Fordham agreed to follow up with Senior Center to see if phone jack is available or can be installed in room. Other questions regarding quorum need follow up, including whether physical quorum in the room is required, whether remote participation via Zoom is a possibility in the future.

FRTA

Ms. Dodge reported on FRTA advisory group discussion around how “out of control” behavior on bus can relate to disabilities like tourette’s, or serious developmental disability. Ms. Kelley agreed that this relates to employee awareness training (i.e. drivers), and would be something to look at further, and noted that there were other departments in the ADA plan that were identified as needing awareness training, and the CDA could possibly assist with training. The topic will be addressed further at the next meeting.

Pleasant St. Apartment

Ms. Desorgher said she spoke with Eric Twarog and he confirmed that the zoning board would be forwarding information to the CDA, but that nothing had come up yet. Ms. DeSorgher requested that someone else on the CDA take over the issue with Pleasant Street apartment, as to whether the zoning board has been informed of error and whether a decision has been made. Ms. Kelley said she would speak with Ms. Adams to follow up on these issues.

Update on Dominique Thomas DeCellato complaint

Discussion was tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Adding noncompliance recommendation regarding MillHouse to agenda for next month.

Ms. Kelley will type up public thank yous from the CDA, and forward to Ms. Fordham to put on CDA letterhead.

LK spoke with owner of 60 Wells St. parking lot regarding flooding and potholes. The owner has arranged to have the lot resurfaced in about 3-4 weeks, and had cleared drain on south side. Mr. Mayo confirmed the drainage issue had been taken care of a couple of months ago.

Announcements

Ms. Kelley communicated with Ellen Boyer, Director, Library Board of Trustees. An MOD representative is coming on June 19th to do a total evaluation of library for physical barriers and accessibility of programs. Ms. Kelley will be attending.

Next meeting:

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

Adjournment

Ms. Desorgher moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Mayo seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.