

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, September 12, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair

Cynthia Dodge, Alternate Chair

Virginia DeSorgher

Douglas Mayo

Members absent:

Margo Campbell

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Kelley reported that the Handicapped Parking Fund balance remains at \$2,611.05, and the General Fund balance is \$300.00.

Open Issues:

FCBA Franklin County Bar Association update

Ms. Kelley followed up with Ben Simanski to reiterate interest in holding event with the FCBA, with a disability themed movie screening and discussion as one possibility. She also spoke with Joanna Whitney regarding possible titles. Need to determine likely # of attendees and choose date/location. Possible locations include Olver Center, John Zon, GCC. Ms. Kelley will follow up Mr. Simanski and check with his availability. She will also invite him to join CDA.

Priorities for Massachusetts Office on Disability Grant Application/ADA evaluation and transition plan

Ms. Kelley forwarded her priorities to MJ Adams, Director of Community Development. Discussion followed about brick-stamped sidewalk repair, stamped concrete still impacts wheelchairs, guide dogs.

Status of Garden Cinema

Ms. Kelley received letter from Architectural Access Board that they were receiving monthly progress reports from the Garden Cinema. She did not speak with MJ Adams regarding further updates. Current status of lift was not known.

Remote access status

As an update was not available, Ms. DeSorgher moved to table discussion, and Mr. Mayo seconded. Approved 4-0.

FRTA

Ms. Dodge will attend advisory meeting Sept 19. Announced FRTA training session on 26th. Ms. DeSorgher attended previous advisory meeting (biggest complaint was lack of evening and Saturday service), and reported on her experience in pilot program to test new FRTA app. Also used “demand response” system, noted that with demand response you can now request on the same day, through the app or phone.

Pleasant Street Apartments

Further discussion about what rules apply to this building. Ms. Kelley will follow up with MJ to find out the final outcome.

Absentee ballots

Ms. Kelley reported there was not an issue overall, just on the day prior. Ms. DeSorgher reported that the door opener was functioning of the door during the election, and there was new signage indicating handicapped accessible entrance. Mr. Mayo reported that individuals were mingling in front of access door which was problematic. Ms. Dodge suggested a sign on the door “do not block” for future elections. Mr. Mayo suggested a few more guards to help keep the disability access entrance clear. Ms. Dodge suggested using handicapped parking fund for further signage. Mr. Mayo will contact the Superintendent to follow up.

New Business

Elm Terrace Bus Stop

Ms. Desorgher met with Elm Terrace Resident, and visited the former bus stop inside Elm Terrace, which has been moved to Elm St. location and which is not accessible. She provided a video of visit to existing stop, and after contacting FRTA was told new bus stop is going to be at corner of Elm and Allen, where sidewalks are inaccessible. Met with head of FRTA who said they had talked with housing authority about moving the stop and concluded that most riders at Elm Terrace take “demand response.” Ms. DeSorgher followed up with note to Jeff

Dougan, and met with MJ Adams, Acting ADA Coordinator. Ms. DeSorgher motioned that the CDA send a letter to FRTA with cc: to housing authority to request return to original stop, Mr. Mayo seconded. Approved 4-0.

Pierce Street/The Iron Works

Regarding the bookstore going into the Iron Works building, Ms. Desorgher requested that it come before the CDA to assess accessibility.

Mayor Martin's Executive Order re Public Meetings in Library

Ms. Kelley responded to the Mayor with information on which meetings are currently being held in places with accessibility issues, and has not yet had a response.

Four Corners

Ms. Kelley provided documentation that the Architectural Access Board has provided a waiver to allow school to use portable vertical lift to access the stage.

Health Dept

Ms. Dodge reported that the Health Dept is not responding to mold allergy issues at certain buildings, in relation to individuals with severe allergies. Ms. Desorgher suggested contacting Ben Simanski from Franklin County Bar Association about the issue, since the Commission may not have the expertise. Ms. Desorgher made a motion to contact Mr. Simanski, Mr. Mayo seconded, approved 4-0. Ms. Kelley will contact Mr. Simanski to request he can attend next meeting.

Main St. Bar and Grille

Ms. Kelley presented a letter from the Architectural Access Board/Main St. Bar and Grille which requests temporary relief from requirement that entrances be accessible; a decision has not yet been made. Ms. DeSorgher reported that this is a "change of use" for the building. Ms. DeSorgher will visit the site.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on October 10, 2019, at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

Adjournment

Mr. Mayo moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ms. Dodge seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.