

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, November 14, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair
Cynthia Dodge, Alternate Chair
Margo Campbell
Virginia DeSorgher

Members absent:

Douglas Mayo

Also present:

Community and Economic Development Dept:

- Robin Fordham - Grant Program Assistant
- Lindsay Rowe - ADA Coordinator

Bob Williford - citizen of Greenfield

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

September 12, 2019 minutes – Ms. DeSorgher moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Dodge seconded. Minutes approved 4-0, with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Campbell reported the Handicapped Parking Fund balance at \$2,821.05, and the General Fund balance at \$300.00. Ms. DeSorgher motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Ms. Campbell seconded. The report was approved 4-0

Open Issues:

Franklin County Bar Association (FCBA) update

Ms. Kelley talked with Mr. Ben Simanski of the FCBA and he has indicated he would like to join the CDA. They also discussed the possibility of a FCBA/CDA community event featuring service dogs, possibly in March. Ms. Dodge made suggestions for media coverage of this and other CDA events moving forward to provide more info to the public on CDA activities. The CDA agreed to review options for disability-themed movies for a CDA sponsored community event/movie showing.

ADA evaluation and transition plan/MOD Grant application

The MOD Grant application has been submitted, and the City will be notified in December or January on status of award. A suggestion was made to add City Dept. Head disability/access training to the evaluation and transition plan, with the current school plan possibly used as a model.

Voting issues/present grievance and absentee ballots

There was a discussion of issues related to election. Discussion on following up on proper floor covering for gym that does not pose accessibility issues. Ms. DeSorgher will follow up with Kathy Scott to thank the high school for their efforts.

Remote access status

Reviewed the equipment purchase costs, install fee, and monthly fee. Ms. Kelley asked how the monthly expense could be funded. Ms. DeSorgher believed it would come from the Handicapped Parking Fund. Ms. Rowe to follow up and confirm funds for purchase, monthly fee.

FRTA/Elm Terrace bus stop, new app for service

Ms. DeSorgher reported that the Elm Terrace bus stop had been moved to an inaccessible location, on a steep hill without sidewalk. She would like to see if Mr. Simanski could assist in resolving. There was confusion over location of stop between FRTA and driver. Consulted with Jeff Dougan of Mass. Office on Disability, and wrote letter to FRTA. FRTA said that on demand service was available as an alternate option, but Ms. DeSorgher pointed out that on demand service is more expensive. Not clear on next step, will follow

up with Simanski re: legal possibility. Looking into whether there is an ADA coordinator for FRTA.

DeSorgher gave an explanation of the new app, which can book on demand trips.

Building accessibility/Pleasant Street Apartments, new McDonald's 393 Main St., Wendy's restaurant, Library plans

Ms. Kelley expressed interest in how the CDA can be part of early planning process before something is in building stage and retrofits are needed for accessibility. She asked Jeff Dougan what other cities to do as a model, have not yet heard back. Also called Access Specialist at Stavros, but has not heard back.

Ms. DeSorgher said the CDA is supposed to be consulted on "front end". Would like to see ADA Coordinator connect with dept heads for clarification of process. Ms. Rowe confirmed that CDA is on coversheet for ZBA, and on all lists for memos. Ms. Dodge thought perhaps the ADA Coordinator could go to those meetings as liaison.

DeSorgher explained the CDA should receive memo, and it is incumbent upon the committee to reply by date. May need to call special meetings to respond in time. There was a discussion of a process for the CDA's response.

New Business

DPW priorities/curb cut in front of Veterans Center, main st. sidewalks and obstructed sidewalks

Ms. Kelley extended thanks to DPW Director Marlo Warner regarding the curb cut. Mr. Marlo indicated he was willing to come to future CDA meeting/meetings.

Greenfield Cinema update

Ms. Rowe reported that the specs were in, the quote for pre-work are in, and ordering new lift this week. There is question of exact date of installation, but in progress.

CDA report 1999 through present

Ms. Dodge explained that the CDA should be completing an annual report each year going forward, to hand in to Mayor. Ms. Kelley requested Ms. Dodge summarize and submit info she has on activities this year for annual report. Not preparing retroactive reports at this time.

Invitation to Dept Heads

Ms. Kelley expressed interest in CDA inviting Department Heads to come to a meeting of the CDA. The DPW was open. Would be good to stagger invites, good idea going forward.

Announcements

There was an Arch Access Board complaint at an allergist office, which is now being rectified.

Ginny will check charter regarding possible conflict of interest if serving on more than one commission.

Next meeting:

Tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on December 12, 2019, at the John Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant Street

Adjournment

Ms. Dodge moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.