



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

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Members:

Lynne Kelley – Chair
Margo Campbell
Virginia DeSorgher
Cynthia Dodge
Douglas Mayo

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Jon Zon Community Center, 35 Pleasant St.

Minutes of Thursday, June 11, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Lynne Kelley, Chair
Virginia DeSorgher
Margo Campbell
Douglas Mayo

Members Absent

Cynthia Dodge, Alternate Chair

Also present:

Lindsay Rowe, Acting ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield
Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant for the Community & Economic
Development Department

Bob Williford, resident of Greenfield

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

The meeting was recorded by Ms. Fordham, via the City of Greenfield WebEx platform.

Approval of Minutes:

May 14, 2020 minutes – Mr. Mayo moved to accept the minutes. Ms. DeSorgher seconded. Minutes approved 4-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Campbell reported that the Handicapped Parking Fund balance is \$2821.05, and the General Fund balance is 300.00.

Open Issues:

Update on Garden Cinema

Ms. Rowe reported that construction is active, installation complete by end of month. Ms. Kelley provided a reminder that she would like to test the lift in “dry run,” Ms. Rowe has made request, is waiting to hear back.

Status of invitation to department heads

Mark Snow, Building Inspector, had to cancel at last minute. Ms. DeSorgher said Ms. Tourneau (Mayor’s office) was interested in joining meeting regarding outdoor dining, but was unsure about attendance. Ms. Kelley asked if Mark Snow or Valerie Bird could attend next month. Ms. Rowe will reach out to both, and see if either can attend next meeting. Mr. Mayo and Ms. DeSorgher requested the CDA update their email to their council email address.

Remote access status

Ms. Rowe said still looking into conference phone for call-in access to members when in person meetings resume. IT would purchase phone, or if it is allowable get subscription to remote meeting subscription if this works well for everyone. CDA needs to decide what works best for them. Ms. Kelley expressed concern for those without computer. Ms. Rowe said participants can always call in to video meetings. Ms. DeSorgher expressed interest in continued remote access, good format, nice to see people’s faces. Question regarding further guidance as to how long Gov has allowed suspension of remote rules? Ms. Rowe said she has seen no such guidance. Ms. Kelley agreed that WebEx is working well and to continue with it.

FRTA / Elm Terrace bus stop

No updates, Ms. DeSorgher will follow up on status with Marlo Warner, DPW.

Building accessibility/CDA inclusion in planning stage

No discussion (see new business for discussion of outdoor restaurant seating).

Covid-19 information

Ms. Kelley reported that the CAM training scheduled for Sept. not going forward. MOD is suspending trainings for now. Will be in touch when restarting trainings.

Ms. Kelley remotely attended conference hosted remotely, “Elders and People with Disabilities - Safe at Home and Thriving.” Directors from LifePath, Joe Commerford, Claire Higgins in attendance. Lots of info on state services in support of folks staying at home. Ms. Higgins stressed importance of applying for fuel assistance, currently there are extra funds available, and even if you don’t need it, approval opens door to other benefits (e.g., new heating system, utilities, food, etc.), a “portal” to other services. Ms. Commerford announced three bills she is working on; one to allow spouses to be compensated for caretaking, House Bill S28. House Bill S68, affects PACE program, all inclusive care for elderly. Program is income-eligible, has “cliff effect” if over limit. Wants to modify to allow for more flexibility. S556, Telemed, looking to make it permanent benefit. Call you rep to note your support. Finally, unemployment benefits. Currently if employer calls you back to work, no longer eligible. People with health or disability issues which prevent from coming back, there is currently no mechanism for protection, but if you call your rep they will handle case by case. The conference was recorded, is on AOCTV. Any questions, contact LifePath.

New Business:

CDA inclusion in planning stage of outdoor dining

Ms. DeSorgher thanked those who wrote letters, in planning stages for outdoor dining regarding accessibility. She reported on making outdoor dining possible for restaurants who have requested. One group already has license which extends to outdoor service. Second group has parking or property adjacent to restaurant, adjacent to building, could be extended if rules adapted. Third group needing to use town-owned land (sidewalk or parking lot), has to go through council, then licensing board. Came up in meetings that needs of those who are not able bodied must be considered. Ms. DeSorgher felt that everyone was going forward in good faith, impressed upon them need for maneuverability, everyone able to participate. Ms. Mayo explained that Appointments & Ordinances, involved, as licensing changes needed to make this happen ASAP. Voted unanimously to send to Council to vote on. Ms. DeSorgher said a certain number of restaurants without their own space have come forward to request outdoor dining, street closure a possibility. Mr. Wiliford noted issues around sidewalk dining when 6 ft distance is to be maintained for social distancing and minimum widths for wheelchair access. Ms. Kelley said she was happy to do “dry runs” for any set up to see how it works. Ms. DeSorgher suggested “drive by” by of current locations. Discussions of alleys and maneuverability issues.

Announcements:

Crip Camp Workshop, every Sunday, sessions recorded. Interesting and enlightening, has info for anyone interested.

Library will be opening for drop off; porta-potties currently set up in handicapped spots. Ms. Rowe will follow up. Ms. Kelley will let DPW know not to use handicapped spaces for this type of use, or outdoor dining.

Ms Kelley requested a follow up to post COVID hotline number on CDA page. Ms. Fordham will post. Ms. Rowe said the hotline may be retired soon.

Ms. Campbell asked about library plans, input re accessibility. Ms. DeSorgher, Mr. Williford suggested library planning meetings, happen on FB page of P3, have PowerPoint presentations, archived on that page, <https://m.facebook.com/pthreeinc>.

Ms. Rowe announced that the food pantry has moved from Osgood to the school on Federal Street, temporary move. They are looking to move, possibility of property on Main Street, but building needs handicapped bathroom. Requesting funds through CDBG to make bathroom accessible, would include door button, lower counter, thinking about ADA portion.

Discussion re Magpie accessibility. Ms. Kelley said the inside is accessible, and a power chair can maneuver grade to restaurant, but manual chair can't. Ms. DeSorgher asked for feedback on Magpie outdoor seating? Ms. Campbell said not the best location for outdoor dining. Mr. Williford said part of proposal is to go around corner for both restaurants to walkway that goes back to parking garage. Ms. Kelley will talk a look at site. Ms. DeSorgher requested feedback to represent the board's thoughts accurately.

Ms. DeSorgher will reach out to Ms. Dodge, have not heard from her re meetings.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on July 9, 2020 - remote access via WebEx

Adjournment

Ms. Mayo moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. DeSorgher seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.