

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2022; Meeting held via zoom platform.

Commissioners present (noted by last name in minutes):

Darren Black
Rebecca Christie
Zeke Holt
Maureen McKinnon
David Moisan
Kerry Neenan
Kate Zuraw

Also present (noted by last name in minutes):

Lisa Cammarata, ADA Coordinator
Jeff Cohen, Councillor, Ward 5
Alan Hanscom, SATv
Megan Riccardi, City Council Liaison

Commissioners absent:

Debra Lobsitz, Chair
Mandee Spittle

1) Introductions/welcome/guests

Cammarata called the meeting to order at 4:38PM, and she extended a welcome to everyone. Each commissioner and invited guest introduced themselves, and Cammarata identified participants in the meeting.

2) Approval of minutes of June 2022 meeting:

Motion made by Moisan, seconded by Holt, all in favor, motion carried.

3) New Business

a) Construction Update; Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager

Jay Carroll (Carroll) was unable to join the meeting. Cammarata reported she talked to Carroll prior to the meeting about the sidewalk repair schedule in process. She offered to send the link to the City's website with the schedule. She reported the sidewalk from the Municipal Golf Course to the High School is currently being repaired. Riccardi suggested that sidewalk issues be reported to SeeClickFix so that there is a record of it. Neenan suggested the link with the schedule be on the SCOD Facebook page.

b. Update on funding in handicap violations account; Lisa Cammarata

Cammarata reported the fund's balance as of that date was a little over \$110,00.00. She said some of that money is spoken for already, as the SCOD agreed to fund the Adaptive Program at Salem High School. AS the school year is about to start, Neenan offered to invite Angie Giancola to our next meeting to discuss the funding

c. Wheelchair Rental Program; SCOD role, group

Ideas about this program were discussed:

Moisan suggested motorized chairs.

Fees, location, and logistics were discussed. Proximity to downtown, Destination Salem's new location at the South Harbor Garage.

McKinnon suggested that motorized chairs would increase the complexity of this project, and we might want to keep it simpler. Group discussion included annual inspections and charging a deposit. Simplicity to the program is key. Neenan said the PEM offers wheelchairs to visitors, and she offered to look into their program and report back next month.

4) Old Business:

a. ADA Transition Plan; Meghan Riccardi/Lisa Cammarata/Deb Lobsitz

Cammarata said this item is still on the agenda every month for discussion, to call attention to the work in process and already done. She mentioned the paving and the entrance to the Pedestrian Mall. Neenan said the pool at Forest River is beautiful and reported that a friend was pleased with the adult sized changing table. She also mentioned the sidewalk and curb was done near the Samantha statue.

Cammarata said the City is still interested in hiring/contracting/interning for ADA status with City projects, and she reached out to IHCD for guidance.

b. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:

ADA Updates and Transition Plan:

See above, this subject was covered already.

Project Funding

Cammarata said that the subcommittee was going to meet soon, and she would send out email to set that meeting up.

Social Media

Cammarata reported that Spittle is interested in working on our Social Media presence; Moisan is happy to have her assist.

Pedestrian Safety

Black (dubbed our signal consultant by Cammarata) reported that he has been in contact with John Giardi, and he feels that his real world experience has been valuable, ie, a sighter person crossing the street vs a sight challenged person crossing the street. He reported that the ADA signals have been installed at Riley Plaza, Norman and Washington Street, he is happy the progress is continuing, and he looks forward to working with the Electrical Department more.

Moisan added that he is pleased with the paving taking place in the City, and he agreed the Pedestrian Mall is less of a tripping hazard.

Salem Human Rights Coalition (SHRC); Commissioner Kerry Neenan (Neenan) with alternates Becky Christie (Christie) and Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) serves as Commission representative to this board. Neenan reported the SHRC did not meet in July.

c. Planning Department collaboration with SCOD update; Daniel LaRoe

LaRoe was unavailable to attend the meeting; Cammarata reported LaRoe received an estimate of \$70,000.00 for the surface work at Mary Jane Lee Park, a considerable amount higher than anticipated. As such, the collaboration with the SCOD is now changed to signage, and Cammarata will circulate the information from LaRoe to the group.

d. Canal St. pathway: a request of using funds to add entrance/exit indicators for the visually impaired; Meg Riccardi.

Riccardi said this matter is still in process, and she has sent a few emails to get an update. She will report as she gets more information

e. No "e." (error).

f. Sidewalk ordinance update/joint meeting with Governmental Services; Councilor Ty Hapworth

Cammarata talked to Hapworth earlier in the day, and there is no update to this agenda item.

g. Advisory Group Open Space and Recreation Plan; Tom Devine; Senior Planner; or Cammarata/Lobsitz

No update available. However, Riccardi said she would have information for next month on this, as she will be attending a meeting on 8/19/2022 about this matter.

h. Variance request, Old Town Hall; Don Mills, Mills Whitaker Architects; Julie Barry, Planner Arts and Culture, City of Salem

Cammarata reported the variances as presented were approved by the AAB.

**5) Announcements/Questions/General discussion/Ideas for future meetings
Future meetings; location/format/discussion**

Cammarata told the group that remote meetings were extended for another year; however, there can be in person meetings or hybrid meetings in the City. She asked for input, citing that some Commissioners would like to be back in person, and others prefer remote.

Comments included the inability to hear when dialing in for a hybrid meeting. Riccardi said City Hall Annex has a room prepped for hybrid meetings, and the ability to hear is better there.

Holt said remote is convenient, and makes our meetings more accessible, pure remote can also present barriers too. He suggested we may want to try hybrid, too.

Black said there are pros and cons to both, as there is no need to travel outside of your house, and materials can be sent electronically, yet remote can be isolating.

Christie does not have a preference, but she feels a zoom allows for greater participation, and a hybrid can be hard to follow, even when wearing headphones.

Cammarata said she is aware of accommodations for CODs, and she will look into them as they relate to remote participation.

Commission Appointment, Maureen McKinnon

Cammarata announced that McKinnon had been reappointed to the SCOD.

Announcement:

Cammarata announced the MOD's grant application was out and she was in talks with the Planning Department to determine the City's plans for applying. She reminded everyone that the City was not awarded anything last year, despite the City's belief the Mack Park Food Farm was a seemingly perfect subject for the award. Neenan and Christie are interested in offering input to the application process and decision of subject matter.

At 5:35PM Black made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Christie. All in favor.

LBC

8.17.2022