

**Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes**  
1/18/2022; Meeting held via zoom platform.

**Commissioners present:**

Debra Lobsitz, Chair  
Darren Black  
David Moisan  
Kate Zuraw  
Zeke Holt  
Maureen McKinnon  
Kerry Neenan

**Commissioners absent:**

Rebecca Christie

**Also present:**

Lisa Cammarata  
Alan Hanscom, SATv  
Megan Riccardi, City Council Liaison  
Jeff Cohen, Councillor, Ward 5  
Jennifer (She/Her)  
Andrew Varela, Councillor, Ward 7

**1) Introductions/welcome/guests**

The Chair, Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz) called the meeting to order at 4:37PM, and she extended warm holiday wishes to everyone. Each commissioner introduced him or herself.

**2) Approval of minutes of December 2021 meeting:**

Motion made by Kate Zuraw (Zuraw), seconded by David Moisan (Moisan); all in favor, motion carried.

**3) Old Business:**

**a. ADA Transition Plan Presentation by IHCD and PSHE Committee Meeting Update**

No significant updates were reported; Cammarata said this item will be on the agenda every month for discussion. The group discussed replacing the intern from IHCD with a student of social work or the like to assist with ADA compliance on projects.

**b. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:**

**ADA Updates and Transition Plan:**

Lobsitz reported that there is a website for resource assistance, massoptions.org, and she also reported that people can order at home COVID test kits at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

**Project Funding**

Cammarata said that the subcommittee was going to meet soon.

**Social Media**

There was no report made.

**Pedestrian Safety**

Moisan said he was pleased with the work at Flint Street for accessibility in the signals.

No Place For Hate (NPFH); Commissioner Kerry Neenan (Neenan) with alternates Becky Christie (Christie) and Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) serves as Commission representative to this board. Jeff Cohen (Cohen) reminded the group that NPFH is has changed its name to Human Rights Coalition, and Fafa Wolfson is the new Chair, as Cohen is now a City Councillor.

**c. Planning Department collaboration with SCOD; Amanda Chiancola**

Planning was unable to join the meeting.

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

Meg Riccardi (Riccardi) reported that this matter is still being looked into.

**e. Update on electrical department collaboration; audible signals; Darren Black**

Darren Black (Black) reported he met with the City Electrician John Giardi (Giardi), and he felt the meeting went well. They had a good discussion, during which they discussed traffic, intersections, etc. Specific areas discussed were Bridge and Webb Streets, where there have been accidents, and the group was happy to hear Moisan's comments about Flint Street.

**4) New Business**

**a. Construction Update; Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager**

Jay Carroll was unable to join the meeting.

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

Cammarata reported the fund's balance as of that date was \$74,107.84 and expenses from the fund as of that date were \$43,995.16. *(NOTE: error determined, actual expenses are \$44,097.16).*

**5) Announcements/Questions/General discussion/Ideas for future meetings:**

McKinnon reported that the building on Lafayette Street for which the Commission had received a variance request was now offering the apartments as condominiums, and she offered to look more into that, especially as they relate to affordability. A discussion regarding rental stock in Salem, and Cohen offered that the area where Bertini's restaurant is will have 276 units. The group also discussed the need for accessible units. The group's opinion is that "accessibility does not have to be ugly."

Moisan reported that Matt Cortland, a disabled man with whom he is familiar due to his online and social media presence, is running a project to send N95 masks to recipients of SSI, as cloth masks are no longer the preferred face covering. [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/MattCortland); Matt Cortland is the way to find him. Moisan recommends this project for the disabled community who may need masks.

Cammarata reported she has tried to find out why the City was not awarded the MOD grant this year, and of the date of the meeting, she has not heard back from MOD. She said she will keep trying so that we can learn for the future.

There being no further business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 5:32PM.

LBC