

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes
10/19/2021; Meeting held via zoom platform.

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioners absent:

Zeke Holt
Rebecca Christie

Also present:

Lisa Cammarata
Alan Hanscom, SATv
Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager
Kate Kennedy, Staff Planner

Danny LaMach
Jeff Cohen
Steven Kapantais

1) Introductions/welcome/guests

The Chair, Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz) called the meeting to order at 4:35PM. Each commissioner introduced him or herself.

Motion made by David Moisan (Moisan) seconded by Darren Black (Black) to move two later agenda items to this spot. All in favor, motion carried.

3.c) Old Business

ADA Signage Project; Planning Department:

Kate Kennedy (Kennedy), Staff Planner in the City's Planning Department told the group she wants feedback and assistance on the ADA Signage Project, to assist with placement, and where directional signage would be most appropriate. Discussion took place regarding locations, playground areas, the parks, and buildings including city-owned buildings. With regards to tourists, this type of discussion took place with Destination Salem relative to accessible attractions and such designation in the city guidebooks. Commissioners volunteered, and Kennedy said she would contact them via email.

4.a) New Business

Construction Update; Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager

Jay Carroll (Carroll) provided a comprehensive update to the group regarding projects in process, and those on the horizon. He mentioned sidewalks, CDBG, splash pads, development in the Point section of the city, Howard Street, historic cemeteries, and specific sections of streets and sidewalks. Moisan asked about sidewalk shaving that has been done in the city in the past, and Carroll said he would look into that happening again. Black gave kudos to the work and paving done on Derby Street. The group thanked Carroll for the information.

2) Approval of minutes of September 2021 meeting:

Motion made by Kerry Neenan (Neenan), seconded by Moisan; all in favor, motion carried.

3) Old Business continues

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

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) reported that the City is moving ahead with accessibility matters as addressed in the ADA Transition Plan. She said she will work on getting the Smart Sheet available to the Commission and the public.

b. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:

ADA Updates and Transition Plan:

Black reported about a schedule walk-through of the Salem Arts Council.

Project Funding

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) reported that at least two accessible picnic tables have been relocated on stone dust to the Salem Common for October adjacent to accessible paths.

Steven Kapantais (Kapantais) asked for a report on the balance of the handicap violation funds. Neenan suggested such information could be a standing agenda item.

Social Media

There was no report made.

Pedestrian Safety

The group discussed Smart Signals and Black's plan to meetup with John Giardi, the City Electrician to assist with and discuss Signal Placement.

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. Neenan reported that NPFH is working on changing their name, along with a pledge of commitment to equity and diversity, along with a code of ethics.

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

a. Salem Skipper; Lobsitz reported that the Salem Skipper is available and wanted to remind people to use it, its affordability, and the accessibility.

b. MOD Level Up Webinar; Lobsitz reported the date, time and web address of the Webinar presented by the Mass Office on Disability.

c. Haunted Happenings; Cammarata said this was an item on the agenda to discuss accessibility in the city during the month of October.

d. Neenan reported she has scheduled William Joyce (Joyce) to attend the Commission's November meeting. Joyce is with the MAAB, and he will talk about Historical Accuracy and accessibility.

e. Neenan said that once the City hires the Signature Parks Manager, she'd like the Commission to meet the employee to discuss accessibility.

f. Neenan told the group that Senator Joan Lovely is sponsoring legislation (S.131) in response to the matter involving Brian Corbett, a Danvers resident who has Down Syndrome, and the way he was treated by the MA State Police. Neenan said she would keep the group updated.

There being no further business before the Commission, Neenan made a motion, seconded by Black to adjourn the meeting at 6:02PM.

LBC