

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

Meeting held via zoom platform.

Commissioners present:

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

Also present:

City Council Liaison Meg Ricciardi
Lisa Cammarata, ADA Coordinator
Alan Hanscom, SATv
Jenna Ide, Director Municipal Operations
Stacia Cooper, Destination Salem

Attendees:

Heather Famico
Steven Kapantais

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35PM. Each commissioner introduced him or herself. The Commission welcomed the Jenna Ide and Stacia Cooper.

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) thanked everyone for attending the rescheduled meeting.

2) **Approval of minutes from January 19, 2021 meeting.**

Motion made by Rebecca Christie, seconded by Darren Black to accept the minutes from January meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

3) **Old Business:**

ADA Transition Plan Presentation by IHCD and PSHE Committee Meeting Update;

Jenna Ide (Ide) explained different funding sources (grants, CIP, etc.) for the City's work to address the recommendations in the ADA Transition Plan (Plan). Ide explained she has developed a Cloud-based Smartsheet that will track all of the ADA work the City has done and is doing. She explained it is a work in progress, and she asked for input from the Commission on ways to present the data in the Smartsheet.

There was discussion regarding the Smartsheet accessibility via a screen reader, and that it can be challenging. The use of various platforms (Jaws, etc) was discussed regarding accessibility.

Ide said a lot has been done, especially at the Salem Public Schools. She reported that the ADA Coordinator Assistant, an intern from IHCD, will be assisting in the checking/verification/tracking of project status.

Departmental websites were discussed and the City's work to increase accessibility on them. Ide explained the Smartsheet, how to navigate it, and how it is sorted.

Kerry Neenan (Neenan) called the Smartsheet amazing, and she thanked Ide for putting it together and sharing it with the Commission.

Heather Famico (Famico) asked about the costs as stated in the Plan, and she asked if the City's GIS department was involved in this data. Ide explained that actual costs can be tough, as the Plan indicates material costs, and we need to factor in labor. There was discussion on including GIS in the process.

Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz) praised the sheet, and she asked if the colors in the sheet could be bolder or richer.

Councilor Riccardi also praised the sheet, indicating she was excited to see all of the data in one place. She asked about the data sources, and Ide explained data came from the Plan, Facility Dude, staff, etc. She said all departments in the City have access to the Sheet, and she is the 'keeper' of it.

Steven Kapantais (Kapantais) thanked Ide and the Commission for the presentation and the work, and said he was happy to see it all coming together.

Ide said she would email all the members the Sheet, and they could contact her with any questions.

2) New Business

a. Destination Salem collaboration for accessibility

Stacia Cooper (Cooper) asked the Commission for assistance with best practices and resources to help make visitors' experiences in Salem better, relative to accessibility. She was looking for assistance with not only Destination Salem's website, but also the guide, the app., etc.

The group offered Cooper ideas and suggestions that included contacting the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for interpreters (Lobsitz offered to send Cooper the links), Braille, locations of ramps, elevators, lifts, wheelchair resources, service animals, parking, the Disability Resource Center, tour bus and attractions, AIRA app for descriptions of what one is looking at, blue line designation for accessible paths, and reviewing the Plan for designations.

Famico suggested Cooper/City work together on accessibility.

Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) offered to meet with Cooper to discuss accessibility as it relates to a wheelchair user.

As there was another meeting starting at 6:30PM, the meeting was adjourned immediately upon the next meeting's start.

LBC