

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2021

Meeting held via zoom platform.

Commissioners present:

Debra Lobsitz, Chair
Kerry Neenan
David Moisan
Rebecca Christie
Zeke Holt
Maureen McKinnon
Zeke Holt
Darren Black

Commissioners absent:

Kate Zuraw

Also present:

Lisa Cammarata
Alan Hanscom, SATv
Alyssa Doherty, ADA Coordination Assistant

Attendees:

Steven Kapantais
Alphonse Wright
Heather Famico

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30PM. Each commissioner introduced him or herself.

1) **Approval of minutes from April 20, 2021 and May 18, 2021 meeting.**

Motion made by Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz), seconded by Darren Black (Black) to hold off accepting the April and May minutes until the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

2) **Old Business:**

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

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) recognized Alyssa Doherty (Doherty) who presented information regarding more work being done or already done regarding accessibility. Doherty mentioned the work at the Salem Fire Department Headquarters, the parking lot, the accessible entrance, the accessible counter in the office and the curb cuts. Doherty told the group she has been offered and has accepted a full time position elsewhere, and as such, this was her last meeting with the Commission. Lobsitz asked who would be taking her place, and Doherty said the Department Heads will be taking the lead on their projects with guidance and assistance from Jenna Ide and the Building Department. Doherty said the School Department plans to do work this summer while school is not in session. Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) asked if Doherty could share her graph and information with the group. Lobsitz asked that we keep the Smart Sheet available. McKinnon asked if there had been any resistance from Department Heads, and Doherty said that she has not been met with any resistance. Cammarata mentioned that the work at the Salem Willows is underway, which will increase accessibility as well. Lobsitz said over the last three years, she has seen the most dramatic changes regarding accessibility in the City.

g. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:

ADA Updates and Transition Plan:

Black reported that he has asked for an update on the ramp at the Salem Arts Council. He said he was very pleased with the beach mat at Dead Horse Beach at the Salem Willows. Lobsitz said the accessible beach chair is located at Winter Island.

Project Funding

Cammarata said there has been a request for funding of the lift maintenance for the Press Box/Concession area at Forest River. She explained that a few years ago the Commission donated \$6000.00 to the lift's purchase to the Salem Little League, and now the Commission has been asked to assist with the cost for the inspections and maintenance. Cammarata said she wanted more information for the Project Funding Committee before a decision was made, and they would meet before the next meeting and report out to the group.

Social Media

None.

Pedestrian Safety

None.

No Place For Hate (NPFH); Commissioner Keery Neenan (Neenan) with alternates Becky Christie (Christie) and Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) serves as Commission representative to this board.

Neenan reported that the NPFH finalized their Mission Statement at their June meeting, and they may be changing their name. She encouraged the group to read the Mission Statement. Neenan also reported the Pride Parade has been rescheduled to September 17, 2021. She also said that if anyone sees the offensive stickers in the downtown or any place else, to please contact the Salem Police Department non-emergency line to report it.

It was mentioned that the new Police Chief, Lucas Miller be invited to a future meeting.

3) New Business:

a. Tap Board Ordinance; general discussion

Cammarata gave an overview of the development of the Tap Board Ordinance and the implementation of it, citing that there are instances that overall safety and the Tap Board placement can intersect and counteract each other. Attendee Steven Kapantais (Kapantais) said he was pleased with the pragmatic approach the City and John Andrews have taken with regards to Tap Boards, stating that some of the outdoor dining set ups have created a Tap Board, due to the design. Lobsitz said her observations indicate that many of the outdoor seating arrangements have been outstanding. Darren Black (Black) said that he has experience getting around in Boston with a cane as well as Salem. He said that Tap Boards are helpful to find a clear path. Zeke Holt (Holt) asked about guidelines for the establishments for outdoor seating. Doherty said that guidelines were provided by the City's Building Department. Cammarata said the City also provided the MOD's guidelines for outdoor dining to the restaurants.

Heather Famico (Famico) said there are many locations not in compliance, and she mentioned flags hanging low. She asked for updates on enforcement. There was a request for the locations of our picnic tables, and a request for an update on the Project Funding account.

Neenan asked if we could modify the Tap Board Ordinance, as perhaps, as she and Lobsitz agreed, we may want to address the issue of safety and the interruption of the normal flow of traffic.

b. Construction update; Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager

Jay Carroll was unable to attend the meeting and Cammarata read aloud and summarized his report.

c. Open Meeting Law Update; Lisa Cammarata

Cammarata reported the Governor has extended the remote meeting order to allow, meaning the Commission can continue to meet remotely. Cammarata stated there are provisions for the Disabilities

Commission specifically to allow remote participation, notwithstanding the Governor's Order extension. Neenan suggested an Open Meeting Law refresher for the group. She also suggested contacting our legislators regarding remote participation. Alan Hanscom (Hanscom) of SATv said he was aware that attendance to meetings has increased since the implementation of remote meetings.

4) Announcements/Questions/General discussion/Ideas for future meetings

Resumption of in-person meetings update

This was covered in the previous discussion, and Cammarata said she would get more information for the group.

There being no further business before the Commission, David Moisan made a motion, seconded by Neenan, to adjourn the meeting at 5:54PM.

LBC