

Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021

Meeting held via zoom platform.

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioners absent:

Darren Black

Also present:

Lisa Cammarata
Alan Hanscom, SATv

Attendees:

Alphonse Wright
Jeff Cohen

The Chair, Debra Lobsitz (Lobsitz) called the meeting to order at 4:30PM. Each commissioner introduced him or herself.

1) Approval of minutes from April 20, 2021, May 18, 2021, and June 22, 2021 meetings.

Motion made by David Moisan (Moisan), seconded by Kate Zuraw (Zuraw) to approve April 20, 2021 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Becky Christie (Christie), seconded by Zuraw to approve May 18, 2021 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion made by Zuraw, seconded by Christie to approve June 22, 2021 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

2) Old Business:

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. She contacted IHCD about another intern to assist with tracking, and she will look into bringing on a person to serve in that role if IHCD does not have an intern soon.

Cammarata reported that the City's Planning Department wants to partner with the Commission using CDBG funding to provide accessible route signage in the City's downtown. She said a staff member of the Planning Department will attend our next meeting to explain this project in more depth.

g. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:

ADA Updates and Transition Plan:

Lobsitz and the sub-committee agreed the item prior to this item covered it sufficiently.

Project Funding

Cammarata reported the subcommittee met to discuss the lift maintenance at the Forest River Park Baseball Field's Press Box/Concession Stand. Lobsitz reported the sub-committee agreed we wanted to ensure the safe operation of the lift, and our contribution to that would support that. Two years ago, the Commission donated \$6000.00 to the purchase of the lift.

Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) reported the sub-committee's recommendation was to donate \$3000.00 to the lift maintenance. This does not cover the full amount of the request, and the Commission agreed this was a good decision.

Upon McKinnon's recommendation of the sub-committee's decision, a motion was made by Moisan and seconded by McKinnon to donate \$3000.00 to the Salem Little League for maintenance costs associated with the lift. All in favor, motion carried. Lobsitz asked Cammarata to take the next steps to effectuate the payment to the Little League, and Lobsitz offered to write a letter to accompany the check.

Cammarata reported the Commission has expended close to \$35,000.00 from the Handicap Parking Violation fund; and the balance in the account is approximately \$84,000.00. Lobsitz said we should be mindful of unexpected costs due to requests for ASL interpreters for meetings which can be costly. The Project Funding Committee will meet again before the next meeting to discuss additional projects.

Social Media

Moisan reported he does not have time to be responsible for the Social Media for the Commission. He suggested that we call it Public Relations. Cammarata reported she posts on the Commission's Facebook page, and if anyone has something they would like posted, please let her know. Also, if anyone is interested in taking over the Facebook page, please let her know.

Pedestrian Safety

Moisan reported that the light signals at the train depot are not audible and do not work well, and he inquired if we should talk to the City's Public Services Department. Cammarata reported she had a resident inquiry about the same intersection and another, and she recently learned from the City Electrician that the signals being discussed are set for Smart signal replacement this summer. Councillor Riccardi (Riccardi) was pleased about the replacements, and she suggested we invite the City Electrician to our next meeting, as she has some questions about the Smart signal program, given that signals are in use in other parts of the City.

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.

Attendee Jeff Cohen told the Commission they NPFH has voted to hold their meetings via Zoom until the end of this calendar year. He said Neenan has been very helpful to NPFH. He asked us to be on the lookout for Hate Symbols that are appearing in the City, and to contact the Salem Police anyone sees them.

3) New Business:

a. Construction update; Jay Carroll, Roadway Project Manager

Cammarata reported this item is on the agenda as a placeholder for such updates; there were no updates for this meeting.

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

Cammarata reported the City was notified of MOD's grant program, with submission opening on August 1, and a deadline of mid-October. She has notified coworkers and will be meeting about this program shortly. McKinnon asked that the Commission be made aware of the City's requests to weigh in on them.

Cammarata reported the Commission's website has been updated to reflect Commissioners' names and terms. She asked those without salem.com email addressed to let her know so she can connect them with the IT department.

McKinnon update the group on the bike path along Canal Street; gravel will be done in the Fall and the final paving will be done in the Spring. She said it is a bike path, yet it's also convenient for those who use a wheelchair.

There being no further business before the Commission, Neenan made a motion, seconded by Christie to adjourn the meeting at 5:32PM.

LBC