

## Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2021

Meeting held via zoom platform.

### Commissioners present:

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

### Commissioners absent:

Rebecca Christie

### Also present:

Lisa Cammarata  
Alan Hanscom, SATv  
John Giardi, City of Salem Electrician

### 1) Introductions/welcome/guests

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

As the City Electrician, John Giardi (Giardi), was present, he addressed the group, explained Smart Signals, and answered questions. He gave an overview of how they work, and their use in the City of Salem. Darren Black (Black) asked about specific areas and offered to assist Giardi in determining locations for the Smart Signals. Giardi offered the opportunity for input from the Commissioners for Smart Signals. The group agreed that education for not only pedestrians, but also drivers, is important for the Signal's success. Black and David Moisan (Moisan) expressed interest in working with Giardi.

### 2) Approval of minutes from July 2021 meeting.

Motion made by Kerry Neenan (Neenan), seconded by Black to approve July 2021 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### 3) 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.

Neenan suggested a group trip to see the progress at the Forest River Pool to assess accessibility.

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

##### ADA Updates and Transition Plan:

Lobsitz reported that the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) offers webinars, Level up for Equality, and the next one is in October. Details should be put on our website. a

<https://www.mass.gov/event/levelup-to-equality-webinar-apprenticeship-as-a-pathway-to-employment-2021-10-27t110000-0400-2021-10-27t120000-0400>.

**Project Funding**

Lisa Cammarata (Cammarata) reported that the \$3000.00 donation to the Salem Little League was in process and should be remitted to them shortly. She told the group she would let them know when the payment was made to the Little League.

**Social Media**

There was no report made; Cammarata

**Pedestrian Safety**

There was no report made. Discussion was held regarding the Smart Signals earlier.

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.

**c. MOD grant update:**

In Kerry Murphy's (Murphy) absence, Cammarata reported that the City was applying for funding for accessibility at the Mack Park Food Farm/Forest. Cammarata shared the information from Murphy, and it was decided we'd ask Murphy to attend the September meeting to further explain the grant application. Cammarata agreed to send the information to the group. Neenan suggested the group tour the Food Farm to better understand the application, too.

**d. ADA Signage Project; Planning Department:**

Kate Kennedy (Kennedy), Staff Planner in the City's Planning Department told the group she is working on an Accessible Signage Project for the City's downtown, for which the budget is \$25,000.00. She has reviewed the ADA Transition Plan, and has ideas for where the signage can be located, and she wants input and assistance from the SCOD.

The group was pleased about this effort, offering to assist: Neenan, Moisan, Black, and others offered.

**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.

**b. AAB Discussion**

Neenan asked if we could invite a member of the Architectural Access Board (AAB) to a meeting to discuss historical preservation and how it fits with accessibility. In light of recent variance requests, she believes it would be beneficial. The group agreed with this idea. Neenan offered to contact the AAB.

**c. Signature Parks**

Neenan said she'd like to talk with or invite a rep from Park and Rec to one of our meetings to discuss ADA updates and playground equipment. It was mentioned that we had funding to assist with projects. Discussion was about surfaces, wood chips, the accessible swing, and the merry go round piece at the Salem Common.

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

Black announced he has been in touch with the Arts Council Rep, and the variance was approved in April, 2021. There is a request for a flow of passing to be assessed. He also mentioned about the door with a window, so that a person would be able to see inside.

Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) offered to go and assess the site.

Alan Hanscom (SATv) offered that there is a plan for the elevator.

Steven Kapantais, 23 Wisteria Street commented on wood chip surfaces, he asked about accessible seating at Palmer Cove, how much the Commission has spent from the violations fund, and that our minutes were not on our website.

There being no further business before the Commission, Moisan made a motion, seconded by Black to adjourn the meeting at 6:00PM.

LBC