



City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities Meeting City Hall Ashley Room May 12, 2022 6:00 PM

Present

Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Kim Bettencourt
Pam Cole
Den DeMarinis, Jr.
Audra DePina
Marsha Fernandes
Linda Haskins
John Lobo
George Smith

Absent

Others in Attendance

Laurie Alfonso, Traffic Commission
Linda Morad, City Counselor
BG Shanklin, Architect
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

Welcome & Introductions

- Meeting called to order by Den DeMarinis at 6:00; he introduced Laurie Alfonso, Clerk of the Traffic Commission

Guest Laurie Alfonso

- Sixth Street Parking

Cross walks, lights and (re)location recommendations were made by the Commission. Laurie will bring the proposal to the Traffic Commission. BG had already sent a letter with detailed information we suggested. Laurie asked for examples/other communities that have the same type of equipment. Light should be aligned with curb cuts and handicapped parking spots (Mechanics Lane AND William and Sixth streets). Audra asked about data regarding accidents at either of these sites.

- Noah's Playground

Commission (BG) sent questions to the Traffic and Parks Commissions regarding signage issues. Parks or DPI would be responsible for signage. Because it is not a public way, traffic wouldn't be the one to address signage. Traffic can assist with getting signage, but Parks or DPI would have to address directly.

- Audible signals

DPI maintains audible signs. The Commission will reach out to DPI regarding the volume and length of signal at locations within the City as they need to be adjusted and tested during the time of most traffic noise or weather conditions.

- Kilburn Mills

Has no/poor handicapped parking at this time and no curb cut in front to access the ramp. They share parking with the harbor walk, which has no handicapped parking either. Need signage in front of Kilburn as well as curb cuts on both sides of West Rodney French in front of the shopping plaza. If we do the specs and petition the Traffic Board, Laurie will assist with getting the project completed.

Old Business

- Hillman St. Exterior ADA Issues – Report on Follow-up Meeting with DFFM

Follow up meeting has NOT been scheduled. Mark Champagne and Jen Vieira offered to meet but haven't responded to requests yet. BG met with the Building Commissioner Danny Romanowicz and Matt Silva at the site. Cynthia sent copies of BG's report to all members of the Commission; George sent a follow up letter as well. Danny responded that the Commission should discuss with DFFM. BG showed a mockup of possible ramp design that is appropriate for the space. Best solution is to put a ramp at entrance 1 and utilize one office space to allow for an entrance area into the building. Entrance 2 exposes people to traffic within the alleyway. In addition:

- Heads of MOD and MAAB prefer ramps over lifts and agree that the alleyway is unsafe
- Counselor Morad will contact Jen Vieira about this
- George made a motion at the COA Board meeting this morning to support the Commission's position on this issue

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kim; seconded by Audra. Motion passed 9-0

Chairperson's Report

- Election of Officers coming next month so please contact Cynthia with interest in any of these positions.
- George made a motion that the current slate of officers remain in place and be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June; seconded by Pam. Motion passed 9-0.

Executive Director's Report

- No new updates
- Cynthia will send handicapped parking revenues and preference for meeting dates

Architect's Report

- Lund's Corner Congregational Church
BG visited again and is still working on drawings
- St. Luke's Parking Lot Complaint
Letter will be sent by Commission
- Transition Plan - Updates on Improvements
 - BG working with Al Oliveira to visit schools
- Kilburn Mills
 - Discussed tonight re: parking and curb cuts
 - DoCo MAAB has not published minutes to the meeting when this was discussed
 - BG talked with Danny about lack of action by owners
 - New parking lot in back will include ramp to the back handicapped elevator entrance

Motion to accept Architect's report made by George, seconded by Marsha. Motion passed 7-0.

New Business

- Pam questioned the playground project at Carney Academy and if there was Commission involvement. BG reported that since it is school property, we have no jurisdiction. Kim will reach out for information.

Other Business

- Support Letter for West Beach ADA Improvements
- Team George/ADA Anniversary Event (July)
 - The Subcommittee met prior to the Commission meeting.
 - Consider holding on an AHA night so there is an audience (? July 9)
 - Obstacle course with wheelchairs and/or vision impairment simulation
 - Den offered to help set up obstacle course with his staff and clients
 - George asked about handicapped transportation for anyone who wants to attend
 - Need location and time of event
 - Subcommittee will bring more specific information to next meeting
- VAX Grant Team Updates
 - Grant extended to December 31
 - Pam got a group of nursing students to assist with vaccines and education

Announcements

- Next Meeting: June 30 @ Buttonwood.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by John; seconded by George. Motion passed 7:0. Meeting adjourned 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberli A. Bettencourt

Kimberli Bettencourt
Clerk

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if any accommodations are needed, please contact **Cynthia Wallquist** (Cynthia.wallquist@newbedford-ma.gov), 508.997.4893 or **MassRelay 711**. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but at least **48 hours** prior to the scheduled meeting.*