

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

February 4, 2013

In Attendance: Barbara Tennison, Lynn Vaillancourt, Jennifer Shaw, Robin Torpey and Judy Coletta.

Mayor Sullivan's Administrative Assistant: Chris Griffin

Building Department Liaison: Mike McGourty & Russ Forsberg

Meeting Opened: 6:30 P.M. **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:46 P.M.

January 7, 2013 Meeting Notes Accepted.

Phone Calls: None

MINUTES

ON-GOING/STATUS:

1. **Town Hall Accessible Entrance:**
Chris Griffin stated Tom Whalen, the point person on this, has been instructed to begin redesigning the "side entrance" for accessibility.
2. **Adoption of the Provisions of Chapter 40: Section 22G:**
Mayor Sullivan is requesting that the Town Council draft the language for the adoption of H.P. fines Chapter 40: Section 22G.
3. **Thayer Public Library Accessibility:**
Barbara Tennison, Jennifer Shaw & Russ Forsberg met with Jeff Kunz at the Library to do a walk through & discuss improving the accessibility of the walkways and signage surrounding the library. The C.O.D was asked to write a letter of support to the AAB (Architectural Access Board) requesting a variance.
4. **Parks and Recreation Accessible Transportation:**
Celebrity Tours, of Quincy, MA., was awarded the bus contract. Lynn Vaillancourt had contacted the Parks & Recreation dept. attempting to speak with Director, Nelson Chin. Mr. Chin was not available at the time & the secretary told Lynn that she did indeed need to speak with Mr. Chin for any questions regarding the bus company's accessibility. Lynn proceeded to contact Celebrity Tours in which it was stated that they do not own the buses and would have to retain a special bus for accessibility. In order to obtain an accessible bus, a person would have to request it 6 months in advance. Chris Griffin stated he would look into it.
5. **Transition Plan (TP):**
Russ Forsberg stated that all buildings that are maintained by the town for public use have to be re-evaluated. The building department is in the process of checking into what work, if any, has been done. Town buildings that are leased to the private sector are not in the TP. The building would have to be checked with the leasee to discuss what would be necessary to bring the building up to ADA standards. Russ will supply the floor plans, site plans & photos for each of these buildings. Certain buildings, such as maintenance buildings, that have no public interaction, are exempt from the TP.

6. Water & Sewer Bldg.:
Per Chris Griffin there will be a town discussion of the future use of the 140 year old building. The outside of the building does not need any attention, but the inside of the building needs a lot of work.
7. Funding for a Shading System for the Rock'N Ship Glider at the Highland Playground:
Barbara Tennison spoke to Barbara Mello, Grant Writer for the Town. Ms. Mello is submitting an application to the Christopher Reeves Foundation.
8. Daugherty Gym/MEMA:
Chris Griffin suggested, possibly appointing one member of the C.O.D. to act as a point person on all issues of Town Buildings. C.O.D. will discuss & vote on this suggestion at the next meeting.
9. Mass Highway's repaving of Route 37:
Chris Griffin stated that Mayor Sullivan has spoken to D.O.T. and they will review all curb cuts, making sure they are ADA compliant. After the review, they will have an inventory of what is needed to bring all curb cuts brought up to compliance. This work will be done in the spring.
10. Watson Park Splash Pad & High School pool & rink plans status:
Recreation Director Nelson Chin is working with the company that will be installing the Splash Pad. BCOD will be notified when plans are made, so that BCOD can be involved in the final decisions. Proposals for the pool & rink have been received. Once the award has been announced, the BCOD will be advised & involved in the planning.
11. Community Outreach mailing draft:
Chris Griffin will check with Mayor Sullivan on status.
12. Neighbor Brigade (NB):
Judy Coletta spoke with NB & they stated that they would assign a volunteer for anyone in need. They are willing to work with the COD. Chris Griffin stated that the town used them in helping an elderly resident remove massive shrubbery that was blocking the front of the resident's home.
13. Proposed Community Center renovation plan progress located on the old Mass Respiratory Hospital grounds:
This will be used as an Art Center for young people. Russ Forsberg brought the plans & explained all renovations that are to be done. The 2nd floor will be for storage only, therefore at this time the plan is not to install an elevator for access to the 2nd floor.

NEW:

H.P. Funds:

The math does not coincide with the amount of tickets and funds. Chris Griffin will discuss this issue with Mayor Sullivan. He will advise BCOD on the Mayor's response to this.

Next Meeting: MARCH 4, 2013, CAHILL AUDITORIUM 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Sullivan invited to join us at this time.

RT/BT 3/4/2013