

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
Whipple Senior Center
182 Green Street, Weymouth, MA 02191
January 10, 2018

RECEIVED
TOWN OF WEYMOUTH
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Minutes

2018 APR -3 AM 11: 56

PRESENT:

Hank Goldman, Chairman
Lisa Jennings, Vice Chairman
Richard Johnson
Andrea Feeney
John MacLeod

NOT PRESENT:

Ron Evans
Gerry Begonis
Linda Sera

Chairman Goldman called the meeting of the Commission on Disabilities to order at 7:00PM.

MINUTES

Minutes from December's meeting were not available.

VACANT POSITION on COD

The open position has been appointed by the Mayor. Chairman Goldman intends to reach out to Ms Casey.

ADA COORDINATORS REPORT

Not available. Sent but not able to be opened.

OLD BUSINESS

ISSUE AT SOUTH SHORE HOSPITAL

Chairman Goldman and Mr Evans were provided a walk-thru at South Shore Hospital in November to address access to and from the hospital and accessible parking in November raised by a community member. Mr Evans gave an update at the December meeting. Chairman Goldman stated there are now signs posted at entrances that are closed after hours on how to exit or contact security for assistance. Goldman added that open items remain regarding exiting after typical business hours to accessible parking and the fire lanes and double parking that the SSH valet parking use actively.

Weymouth Farmer's Market

Weymouth Winter Farmer's Market Starts Saturdays on January 27th at the Chapman Middle School cafeteria
10am – 1pm

Mr. MacLeod stated accessible entrances to Chapman are via two 200 foot walks and going through the Chapman School building.

SEPAC

Chairman Goldman stated SEPAC held a Basic Rights Workshop with Braintree SEPAC with 30 or so attendees. Special Education Advocate working with the Federation of Children with Special Needs. Next Weymouth SEPAC meeting is February 6, 2018 at Abigail Adams Middle School library. At this meeting, Ms. Andrea Moreland, an educator and a special education parent will present an in-depth look at the individual components of an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE – NEW CHAPMAN BUILDING

Chairman Goldman asked Ms. Jennings and Mr. MacLeod to provide an update. January 3rd meeting was a discussion of the Site Evaluations of the Chapman Middle School site and the Adams Middle School site and based on enrollment options to consider:

A = 7-8th at Chapman only (985 students) Adams 5-6th grade only (975 students)

C = 5th -8th at 2 middle schools

Chapman 5-8th grade (1230 students) Adams 5-8th grade (715 students)

D = 6-8 at 1 middle school (1470 students), Adams becomes a K-5th grade with 8 other primary schools

Option B = 6-8th grade at 2 schools Adams (715) Chapman (745 students) was removed from consideration as not viable for the middle school expansion. The Chapman site is the best option for town properties and the scope of this project.

Next meetings January 16th to review the initial design options for each possible configurations and alternatives; and January 30th for an Education Plan overview, discussion of enrollment and design options and decision for enrollment options to complete the PDP process and submit to MSBA. The Education Plan drives the two main considerations (C & D) as cost estimates will be discussed.

Mr MacLeod stated the Auditorium is salvageable and on the Town for full cost. The gymnasium is bigger than approved for middle schools, rehab only up to MSBA square footage limits. The cafeteria may also be saved and rehabbed at Town expense.

NEW BUSINESS

Adams School Accessibility

At the request of a resident planning to attend a public event at the Adams Middle School in February, the ADA Coordinator has asked for a review of accessibility of the building.

Mr MacLeod reviewed the designated parking is 3 spaces in the rear of building. No accessible parking is available at the front of the building. Signs will be made to permanently direct drivers to the rear entrance. Mr MacLeod stated there is a buzzer and camera during school hours but problematic after hours.

The resident's specific question of where the best accessible bathroom is in the Adams school relative to the school auditorium has not yet been resolved.

Weymouth High School Accessibility

Chairman Goldman raised concerns of ongoing inaccessibility of the High School, especially after regular school hours. Security concerns often make the building inaccessible/locked. Accessible entrance doors by the elevator have been locked during recent public events including – School Committee subcommittee and Townwide Parent Council meetings, during parent conferences, at sports events and the holiday concert.

Chairman Goldman raised concerns regarding the signage on elevators at WHS which questions the medical necessity of using the elevator, referring users to get permission from the school's Health office (exact wording not available). Ms Jennings suggested they reconsider the language of the sign or address ask WHS Administration to address the issue that prompted the signage in another way that doesn't question its use by those with disability.

Accessible (HP) Parking

A new Disability Parking Abuse bill was passed in MA which raises fines to between \$500
"The Registrar will suspend for 30 days the license or right to operate of a person who misuses a disability plate or placard. Anyone who wrongfully displays a disability placard is subject to a fine of \$500 to \$1000."

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission on Disabilities will be held on February 14, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr Johnson made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:26PM. Ms. Feeney SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Lisa Jennings
Vice Chairman (Acting Recording Secretary)

Approved by:  _____
Hank Goldman, Chairman

Date: 2/14/18