

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Tufts Library, Butterfly Room

November 19, 2014

Minutes

2015 MAR 20 AM 9: 50

PRESENT:

Lisa Jennings, Chairman
Richard Johnson
Ron Evans
Francesco Hladysz

NOT PRESENT:

Hank Goldman
Gerry Begonis

Chairman Jennings called the November 19, 2014 meeting of the Commission on Disabilities to order at 7:00PM.

SEPAC

Michelle Quinn, Co-Chair
Judy Geagan

It was announced that Thereasa Skinner, Director of SEPAC will resigned as of January 2015. Joan Woodward is stepping in as Interim Director of SEPAC.

Chairman Jennings stated Ms. Skinner was not qualified for her roll both administratively and professionally but rather put into the interim roll by Mary Jo Livingstone. Back when that originally happened Chairman Jennings stated she wrote a letter voicing her opinion on the official steps that should be taken to fill the roll. Chairman Jennings stated she would be happy to write that letter again since the same scenario is happing again.

Ms. Quinn stated they have done a survey and transition is the big issue; so they will work on this topic. SEPAC will work with ARC on this; students after they finish high school and transition into life after school.

Chairman Jennings suggested doing something geared towards younger people also; transition begins in Pre-K. Chairman Jennings stated children cannot wait until high school to learn how to adapt to the real world.

Ms. Quinn stated at the Town Wide Parent Council meeting in March they will be screening "Who Cares about Kelsey." Chairman Jennings suggested inviting the Psychologist that was in the film to come to the screening. Chairman Jennings stated COD can help fund the transition speaking for the federation.

Mr. Evans made a MOTION to APPROVE up to \$300 for paying for cost of hiring speaker for Child with Special Needs Workshop. Mr. Johnson SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

OPEN POSITION ON COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Chairman Jennings asked for volunteers if available from SEPAC or at School Committee to apply to Commission on Disabilities group, stating the Town Council member resigned from the commission and many other members have resigned leaving many open seats.

MINUTES

Mr. Evans made a MOTION to APPROVE the minutes of September 17, 2014. Mr. Johnson SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADA COORDINATOR REPORT

Chairman Jennings stated she is currently reviewing what the ADA Coordinator does for COD and a review of that discovery will be discussed with staff and Mayor Kay at an upcoming meeting.

At the next meeting COD will review:

- MASPAC
- ADA
- COD

ADA Coordinator posts the monthly agenda, however she doesn't send the agenda to members.

Chairman Jennings stated she received the October ADA Report late and it is as follows:

1. Legion Field: much of the accessibility prep work has been completed. We will be working on finishing most of the accessibility features over the next 30-45 days or so. The parking lot and utility/restroom building are slated for late winter or early spring weather permitting.
2. Brad Hawes Park: the accessible picnic tables and park benches are scheduled to be installed the week of November 3rd. The parking area is also scheduled for completion the week of November 3rd. The new accessible play structure and swing set are scheduled to be completed the week of November 11th. Work is ongoing and steady in all other aspects of the park including concrete and compacted stone dust pathways throughout.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Jennings stated she recently attending a meeting with Mayor Kay, Mike Gallagher, Sergeant Hayford, George Lane, and Kathy Ferron. The topic was restocking of parking tickets and handicap parking fines.

Previously Chairman Jennings had sent an email requesting to raise handicap parking fines to the maximum fine in Weymouth and it was denied. Now Sergeant Hayford stated the Weymouth Police Department recommend raising the handicap parking fines from \$100 to \$200.

Chairman Jennings suggested the tickets be reworded from:

- HP Zone to HP Space
- HP Plate to PH Placard
- HP Access to not just ramp its access in and out of handicap vehicle

Also suggested by Chairman Jennings is to ticket parking on curb cuts and the ticket should be a handicap fine at \$200 maximum.

Chairman Jennings will send more information to member's if/when there are more meetings of this nature or on this subject.

NEW HANDICAP SYMBOL

Chairman Jennings stated the new handicap symbol can be rent to re-mark handicap parking spots around town. This might be a good time to think about talking to WHS about a capstone project or for WPD to use for their initiative with raise handicap parking fees.

Chairman Jennings stated she would prefer to spend money on educating people on handicap parking issues instead of parking patrol costs.

NEXT MEETING

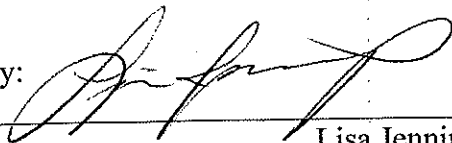
The next meeting of the Commission on Disabilities will be held on December 17, 2014 at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15PM, there being no further business the committee adjourned.

Christine Malloy
Recording Secretary

Approved by:



Lisa Jennings, Chairman

Dated:

3-18-15