

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: October 10, 2024

Minutes prepared by Kelly Bloom

The following commission members were present:

Human Resources Director Beth Brennan O'Donnell, Robert Caldwell, Christine Gray, Tom Gould, Mark Menard, Kayla Bentas, Erica Barrett

The following board members were present via Zoom:

Tom Muxie.

Others in attendance: Sheila Dzengelewski, Carolyn Wynn, Council on Aging Director and Max McConnell, Public Services Librarian, Peabody Public Library, via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM and the group was welcomed by chair, Beth O'Donnell. This meeting was held in person and hybrid via zoom.

Commission Matters:

- A motion to approve September 9, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Tom Gould and seconded by Robert Caldwell.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 4:30 PM.

Webpage:

- Per Sheila new events and resources have been updated and posted on the website.
- Other items Sheila mentioned that may be helpful to add to the website are how to access PAT tv closed captioning services if they use it
- Add a new tab for community projects in Peabody that impact seniors, strollers and or wheelchairs and other disabled citizens.
- Educational information on Assistive listening devices and how residents can access them.
- Check with other communities that have resident lock box programs, this may be helpful to our community. Sheila to find out what communities currently have a program in place and will pass that information on the Beth will look into it.
- Add information regarding Tom Gould's Challenger Basketball at Carroll School beginning 11/12/2024, anyone interested or with questions can call Tom.
- Bedford COD inquired about the Peabody commission Facebook page. Page was created years ago but not updated. Sheila will get the info for the page from Kayla and is happy to monitor and update with information.
- Tom Muxie wishes to share activities he is aware of, such as adaptive sports events, with Sheila to post on the Webpage and on the Facebook page going forward as well.

DPS and Planning Updates:

- No recent updates to the Central Street project provided by Will Paulitz. Beth will check in with him and provide more updates next meeting.
- Group to keep the commission posted if they hear of any accessibility issues regarding the ongoing construction.

Communications/Issues/Complaints:

- Beth states Will Paulitz sent a group out to address and fix the issue caused by the stump of a tree removed near the 7/11 on Lynn Street as discussed last meeting and that issue has been resolved.
- Follow up from Mark Menard regarding the Bell Inn and Tavern. Marks states they are *still* under a temporary occupancy permit, so the shower issue is still on hold. Beth will follow up with Mark, Tom St. Pierre and the Bell Inn to work to address the ongoing issues.
- Kayla Bentas would like the curb cutouts and detection bump placement on the sidewalk on Foster Street by Petrillo's and Summer Street looked at by DPS. She believes they are not placed properly and guided her to walk into the road. Beth will follow up with Will Paulitz and address. Kayla states the ones on Gardner Street seem to be placed properly.
- Parks and DPS will be made aware there is a need for a handicap parking spot to be added to the Forrest Street Parking lot that was repaved.
- Max McConnell from the Peabody Library joined via zoom to introduce themselves. They will return to a future meeting as they want to work with the Commission and find ways to help make services needed at the library more accessible and help the COD. Max stated that they can be a good source of resource gathering and put together resource guides as well.

Communication from AAB:

- Mark Menard states that nothing new is pending regarding AAB variance applications.
- Beth will forward information to the Commission regarding trainings to be posted on the COD webpage.

Budget:

No update.

Board Members were instructed to submit COD agenda items to the attention of Kelly Bloom, Clerk to our Commission, via email: Kelly.bloom@peabody-ma.gov BEFORE NOON the Monday before the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 14, 2024, at 4:30 in the Lower-Level Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.