

**Commission on Disability Meeting**  
Minutes for July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 4:30 PM  
Levi Lincoln Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> fl.)  
Worcester City Hall

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Robert Bureau, Robert Bilotta(via phone), Nancy Garr-Colzie, John Gleason, Fitzroy Hall, D. Karuna, Elizabeth Myska, Lindsey Silva

**Members Absent:** Paul Keister, Joseph Prochilo, Stephen Stolberg

**Staff:** Jayna Turchek, Dawn E. Clark

**Guests:** John O'Dell, City Energy & Asset Management Director

**Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions**

Lindsey Silva, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order. Commissioners introduced themselves.

**Approval of June 19<sup>h</sup>, 2018 Minutes**

Commissioner Garr-Colzie moved approval and Commissioner Myska seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minutes. w

**Review City Hall signage proposal**

John O'Dell, City Energy & Asset Management Director provide the Commission with a document of images representing the various signs to be installed in City Hall. He also passed around a sample of a rest room sign to give Commissioners opportunity to feel the weight and texture of the signs.

**ADA Transition Update**

In 2014 the City contracted with The Institute for Human-Centered Design to conduct a Self-Study and draft ADA Transition Plan (on city website – Office on Disability page) and in 2015 the Commission on Disability requested that compliance be started by working on the recommendations made for the five municipal most used buildings. Mr. O'Dell provided the Commission with the following update on the process:

## City Hall

- Signage is in progress as previously presented
- Thresholds: Some have been temporarily ramped such as the Mayor's office. The thresholds are made of marble. Research is being done to determine the best solution to meeting ADA compliance. City Hall is historic built in 1886 and not possible to replace with the same marble and would be very expensive. One possibility is to shave the marble on the threshold to the ½" requirement.
- Counter tops: Primarily on the second floor –Clerk's Office and Treasurer's Office In process of designing a special window and lowering the counter top at these two locations. Other counter tops on the second and fourth floor have been cleared and space made available to meet compliance. The goal for work to be completed is by June of 2019. Hopefully the work will be done this winter.
- Basement ramp – Add railings this Fall
- Toilet room- first floor in process
- Drinking fountains- The one on the first floor is currently being worked on and should be ready very shortly. The third floor fountain replacement should begin next week with a two-step process due to the marble work.
- Telephone: was removed

## Public Library

The Library had done major renovations in 1998-2000 so most of the building was in compliance.

- The counters were modified and are accessible.
- Protectors were placed at protruding objects; Placed a protector under the stairway so people would be aware
- Restrooms: Changed the partition in the first floor men's room, lowered the toilet in both men's and women's room on the third floor
- Removed furniture on the fourth (employee area)
- Telephone: Not a City phone; still trying to determine who owns.

A second look will be done for accessibility compliance when the impending project of changing the Salem Street entrance to the front of the library (Franklin Street) and the Children's Room to the third floor beginning the periodical area to the first floor and doing some rearranging. This project trips the 30% rule for CM 521 (ADA compliance).

## Union Station

There are a number of projects in the works.

- Automatic door openers at entrance from parking garage\
- At the Harding Street entrance remove the lift shift the stairs to where the lift was and make a ramp to the level of the first floor.
- Upgrading the toilet rooms including the ADA deficiencies
- Signage will be done as well.

Work is planned for this fall.

## Senior Center

The city is in the process of doing work at the Senior Center and gives the opportunity to do accessibility upgrades.

- The city has recently acquired the parking lot which had been lease for St. Vincent's Hospital. The parking lot is going to be redone as solar ready and with ADA compliant guidelines using city and a grant from MASSDOT. Dining room compliant equipment has been purchased and installed.
- A ramp to the stage has been built.
- Stairway railings need to be installed and set to be done this fall.
- The elevator is about 1950's and not included in the work done twenty or so years ago.(not likely to be upgraded. (There may be an effort to market the old St. Vincent's Nurses quarters.) A sign will be posted noting where the compliant elevator is.
- Signage upgrades
- Restrooms will be upgraded for compliance
- Kitchenette in the craft room was upgrade and is ADA compliant.

## Update of 40<sup>th</sup> COD Celebration

Due to current construction at Union Station and a conflict with another event the Commission voted to move the Celebration to Tuesday, October 17, 2018 from 4:30 – 6:30PM in the City Hall Levi Lincoln Chamber.

Mr. Peacock offered to provide captions on the video tape of an interview of Mr. Lawrence Raymond, former Director of the Office on Disabilities. He requested historic images so they could be added to the tape for presentation at the celebration.

**Review of AAB notices and applications: City properties in bold**

### Variance Application

- **455 Main Street, Docket # TBD (1<sup>st</sup> flr employee bathroom) (Original and revised application)**

### Hearing of the Board

- **170 Apricot Street, Docket # V18-185 (South High)**

### Decision of the Board

- **68-12 Sever Street, Docket #V18-190**

### Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

### Announcements:

- **TAC (Transportation Advocacy Coalition) meeting**, Thursday, July 19 at 1 PM-2:30 PM at Easter Seals, 6th Floor, 484 Main St. Worcester.
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled)** August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 4:00 – 5:30pm, YWCA, Members Lounge
- **Audio Journal, Accent on Ability Radio Program:** August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 5-6pm, <http://www.audiojournal.net/>
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 4:30pm.
- **Picture Medical Justice-** group exhibition and forum. The theme is the state of the health care system in the U.S. and its effects on the overall health of the nation. The Sprinkler Factory, 38 Harlow Street, July 8<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, Saturday and Sunday 1-4pm.
- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 1-2:30pm, WRTA HUB, 60 Foster Street
- **Emergency Preparedness Meeting:** November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 9:00am, National Grid Facility, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.