

Accessibility Advisory Commission

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 4:30 PM Minutes

Virtual meeting with WebEx platform

Live streaming on City's website:

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/video-on-demand>

Call-in conference line and ASL interpreters provided

Attendance:

Members Present: Robert Bureau, Philip Economou, John Finn, Jr., Nancy Garr-Colzie, Fitzroy Hall, Linda Larrivee, Elizabeth Myska, Joseph Prochilo, Stephen Stolberg

Member Absent: Dee Karuna, Paul Keister

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Miriam Nyante

Guests: Elvira Guardiola, (City Treasury Department)

Call to order, instructions for virtual meeting, introductions

Chairperson Bureau called the meeting to order and requested Director Turchek to provide the technology instructions for access the meeting. Commissioners then introduced themselves.

Approval of November 17, 2020 minutes:

Commissioner Larivee moved to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes as written. Associate Commissioner Garr-Colzie seconded the motion. All approved.

Presentation of FY20 handicap parking enforcement report: Ms. Elvira Guardiola from the City's Treasury Department provided the following report. For FY'20 there were 311 HP space and ramp violations, of these 87 were dismissed for various reasons. The fines received were \$45,600 from HP space and \$6,000 from ramp violations totaling \$51,600. Comparing this to last year the data is similar.

Update on wheelchair accessible taxis

Director Turchek provided the following background. For the past twenty or so years there have been two Wheelchair Accessible Taxi medallions in Worcester owned by Red Cab. About a year ago one of those medallions were returned to the city because Red cab owner did not feel able to

continue the service. This past year the city and advocates have been working to find another company to provide this service. She has been in contact with the Police Department which oversees the licensing and medallions in the city. Hopefully next month there will be information on training, new vendor and contact information.

This past month the second cab was taken off the road with a wiring problem and could not be operated safely. This means there are no accessible taxis on the road. The City is concerned that this service is not available and is working to see that it is restored as soon as possible. The licensing unit in the Police Department has indicated this second vehicle may be under new management fairly quickly. Red Cab will be contacting users that they are no longer providing accessible transportation.

Transportation update (WRTA and paratransit)

Commissioner Garr Colzie reported the Intercity Zero Fare Coalition met on November 30th.

Funding sources were identified, On December 16, the Transportation Advisory Group is scheduled to talk about para transit issues, The WTRA Advisory Committee have cancelled its December meeting. The next meeting will be on January 21, 2021. More information can be found on WRTA's website.

The Governor vetoed the \$60 million (for 14 RTAs) FY'21 budget. She suggested contacting state legislator to encourage an override.

The WRTA has applied to the Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) for an accessible vehicle in the amount of \$250,000. Since Yellow Cab has the contract with WRTA for para transit rides, it is expected that this vehicle will be operated by Yellow Cab. It should be six to eight weeks before we know about the application result.

The City Council's Sub Committee that deals with transportation will be meeting tonight before City Council and this issue is on the agenda.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Bureau agreed to serve a second term as Chairperson and Commissioner Prochilo agrees to serve a second term as Vice Chairperson. Associate Commissioner Larrivee seconded both nominations. A roll call was taken with 8 yeases: a unisonous vote.

Review of AAB notices and applications: No City properties

No report or action taken.

Suggestions for upcoming agenda items:

Update on Polar Park opening – work has been suspended

Kelly Square design and area update etc.

City's ADA Transition Plan

Transportation Update with Accessible Taxis about

Commissioner Garr-Colzie congratulated Commissions Bureau and Prochilo for agreeing to serve for another year.

Announcements:

- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled) January 5, 2020,**
4:00 – 5:30pm, Contact: jbellil@yahoo.com
- **Mayor's Mental Health Taskforce Working Group**
December 16, 2020, 10am-11am. Contact: Kelsey Hopkins
hopkinsk@worcesterma.gov
- **Next Accessibility Advisory Commission virtual meeting:**
January 19, 2021, 4:30pm
- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting December 16, 2020,**
1-2:30pm, Contact: CMellis@cmrpc.org

Adjournment:

Commissioner Garr- Colzie moved to adjourn and Commissioner Prochilo seconded. All approved at 5:03pm

*Material can be viewed at the Human Rights & Accessibility Office during normal business hours.