

Commission on Disability Meeting
Minutes for March 19th, 2019, 4:30PM
Levi Lincoln Chamber (3rd fl.)
Worcester City Hall

Attendance:

Members Present: Robert Bilotta, Nancy Garr- Colzie, Dee Karuna, Elizabeth Myska (via phone), Stephen Stolberg

Members Absent: Robert Bureau, Fitzroy Hall, John Gleason, Paul Keister, Joseph Prochilo, Lindsay Silva

Staff: Jayna Turчек, Dawn E. Clark

Guests: Joshua Martunas, City Manager's Office; John Raposo, Cutler Associates

Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions

Chairperson Bilotta called the meeting to order. Commissioners introduced themselves. Steven Stolberg was raised to full member for this meeting.

Approval of February 19th, 2019 Minutes

Commissioner Garr-Colzie noted corrections needed and moved to approve the amended February 19, 2019 minutes. Commissioner Myska seconded. All approved.

Review of winter snow removal enforcement:*

Mr. Martunas provided material from the Police Department on the 2018 -2019 snow removal program. The report through Saturday, March 16th is as follows: 652 total sidewalk complaints; 208 citations; 262 cleared upon WPD inspections; 182 warnings; 64 64 locations given to contractor to clear.

When there is a significant storm the priority for clearing is main arteries and around schools. Sidewalks around city hall and other city owned properties including parks are shoveled within 24 hours of the end of snowfall.

The Commission noted that Chatham Street is not always fully cleared related to the handicapped parking spaces. Mr. Martunas will add this street to the list to be checked after a snowstorm. City hall crosswalks were difficult for wheelchairs to

pass through because of the melt-freeze process. This will be added to the watch list as well.

Shrewsbury Street was another difficult place to cross. There is a contact on Shrewsbury Street that checks in daily to see if there have been complaints. Owners have been very diligent in trying to keep the curb cuts and crosswalks cleared of ice and snow.

Review of Worcester Boys Club accessibility design plan (pre-AAB variance consultation):

John Raposo, Cutler Associates presented the accessibility design plan for the Worcester Boys Club, 16 Salisbury Street (at Lincoln Sq.) owned by Winn Corp. This is a full exterior/interior renovation. This is being brought before the Commission prior to going to the AAB. Worcester Historical Commission has given their approval. The key to being able to do this project is the tax credits given for renovating a historic building. The Massachusetts Historical Commission is currently reviewing; once approved they will then send on to the Federal Parks Dept. for their tax credits. This building is on the National Historic Register.

Currently there are two entrances, the main one faces Lincoln Square and the other is on the east side. This one will be renovated and brought up to code. A fully accessible entry will be added on the north where the parking lot is. The parking lot will be redone to meet code. A waiver is being requested for the main entrance. Other variance requests will be for the stairs and handrails. This stairs are too high and the grip on the handrail is too wide. A fourth variance request will be the inaccessible track on the third floor.

Unfortunately time has not been good to the building. Plans include a new roof, new windows, pointing the brick and restoring the outside, repairing the water damage inside.

Summit Academy works with autistic children and will be the sole tenant. There will be a café open to the public. One floor will be all classrooms for junior and senior high school youth.

There is an elevator that will access on all floors. The elevator was installed in 1978 when there was a major renovation done to the building. The building was built in 1928.

Chairperson Bilotta made a motion to send a letter of support for the design of the Worcester Boys Club to the AAB. Commissioner Stolberg seconded. All approved.

Chairperson Bilotta thanked Mr. Raposo for the presentation.

Update on Transportation Initiatives:

Commissioner Garr-Colzie provided the following report:

WRTA offered Administrator position to Dennis Lipka. He accepted and signed a 1 year contract with extension up to 6 months for a total of 18 months.

The WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for March 20th, 2019 at the WRTA Hub 1:00 - 2:30pm.

The Regional Transportation Authority Task Force meeting will be held at Worcester Public Library 5-7pm on March 20th, 2019, Task Force report to be discussed.

MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference April 9-10 at the DCU Center, \$75 fee, there are fee waiver initiatives.

WRTA Advisory Board March 21, 2019 8:30am will be held at the HUB, 3rd floor conference room.

TAC - Transportation Advocacy Coalition meeting will be held Thursday March 28 2019 in Easter Seals conference room 484 Main Street from 11am - 12:30pm to discuss transportation options.

Update to planning for 2019 ADA public events:

- “Live Worth Living” Video screening – Monday, July 22nd, 2019, Noon – 1pm at POP UP, 20 Franklin Street
- Workshop on advocacy development for people with disabilities and allies: “The Great Fight for Disability Rights” video and possible panel – Wednesday, July 24th, 2019, 3-5pm, Levi Lincoln Chamber

- Outdoor networking social event, Possible artwork/music (back of City Hall) Wednesday, July 24th, 2019, 5-7pm, City Hall back Terrace

Idea: Have an artist call

***Announcement: Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST: Design & Construction Training:** May 2nd, 2019, 8:00am to 4:15pm at Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber Event is free, but need to register fnafirst.eventbrite.com

***Review of AAB notices and applications:**

Variance Application

- 84 Williams Street, Docket # TBD (plus update)

Decision of the Board

- Wellington St, Murray Ave, Main St., Docket # V18 261
- 2 Main Street, Docket # V18 390
- 16 Norwich Street

Suggestions for upcoming agenda items:

WooSox follow up will be at the April 16th meeting

Announcements:

- **Transportation Advocacy Coalition:** March 20th, 2019, 11a m, Easter Seals (6th floor of 484 Main Street).
- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting:** April 17th, 2019, 1-2:30pm, WRTA HUB, 60 Foster Street
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled):** April 9th, 2019, 4:00 – 5:30pm, YWCA, Members Lounge
- **Audio Journal, Accent on Ability Radio Program:** April 11th, 2019, 5-6pm, <http://www.audiojournal.net/>
- **Emergency Preparedness Meeting:** April 12th, 2019 at 9:00am, 2 Coppage Drive.
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** April 16th, 2019 4:30pm. Draft plan review of WooSox stadium
- **Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST: Design & Construction Training:** May 2nd, 2019, 8:00am to 4:15pm at Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber

- **May 21st Commission on Disability:** Blackstone Heritage Visitor Center, 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester

Adjournment: 6:35pm

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