



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 10-22-2008

MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 22, 2008

Members Present: Lin Baker, Janice Dallas, Susan James, Barbara Jones,
 Kevin O'Brien, Maureen St. Hillaire

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Barbara Cutler

Others Present: Miriam Stein, Diversity Task Force
 Jane Howard, Vision 2020 Standing Committee
 Gregg Ames, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
 Paolo Marinelli, Disability Advocate
 Heidi Hample, Disability Advocate
 Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs

Job Fair April 2, 2009:

Gregg Ames discussed the goals of the Job Fair and how the Disability Commission, Vision 20/20, Diversity Task Force and the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission could work together to reach these goals. Gregg said that his understanding is that the Disability Commission has an interest in contacting employers for participation at the Job Fair in addition to having a table at the Job Fair. Jack said that the Job fair would be held between the hours of 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., and that the maximum number of employers should not exceed 20. The exhibitor's / employer's would pay between \$40.00 and \$60.00 for a table. Barbara Jones questioned why employers would be charged to participate. Gregg said that by charging a small amount it guaranties a stronger commitment from employers. Jack said that it is undecided if refreshments, soda, water, etc. would be provided. Gregg said that two flyers would be needed, one flyer for consumers and the other flyer for employers. Jack said that the Job Fair would be an opportunity for the Disability Commission to enhance their profile within the Town. Concern was expressed if the Town Hall Auditorium has adequate lighting for this event. Jane Howard said that the Town has hired a consultant to look into the lighting needs in the auditorium. Jane said that if upgrades to the existing lighting have not been made by the time of the Job Fair then lights could be strung, if needed, under the balcony. At Miriam Stein's suggestion the following sub groups were established, in order to facilitate information sharing. The Sub groups are

- (1) *Public Awareness*
 Miriam Stein, Janice Dallas, Heidi Hample
- (2) *Outreach to Employers*
 Gregg Ames, coordinator, Maureen St. Hillaire
- (3) *Outreach to Consumers*
 Maureen St. Hillaire, coordinator, Susan James

(4) *Space Study*

Jane Howard, coordinator, Jack Jones

Jane Howard said that she would contact the Town of Arlington, Cambridge Savings Bank and Wilson Farms about participating at the Job Fair. Miriam Stein suggested that we should meet monthly while planning this event.

Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2008:

Barbara Jones moved to accept the Meeting Minutes seconded by Susan James.

Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2008:

Susan James moved to accept the Meeting Minutes seconded by Barbara James.

Peer Leadership Conference of October 22, 2008:

Susan James said that about 100 people attended the conference held at the Arlington Town Hall. Susan said that the keynote speaker was Shery Mead who is the author of "Peer Support: An Alternative Approach". Susan said that an award was presented to Judi Chamberlin for her efforts on behalf of the consumer/survivor movement. Susan also said that at the panel discussions there was an open microphone.

Mass. Ave. Corridor Project:

Kevin O'Brien said that the second public meeting would be held on Thursday October 23, 2008. Kevin said that this meeting would be a more interactive meeting than the first meeting. Barbara Jones said that Jack Hurd, Selectmen, had asked her to serve on the Mass. Ave. Corridor Committee. Barbara said that she has accepted the offer.

Summer Street Accessible Pedestrian Signals:

The Commission discussed letters to the editor of the Arlington Advocate sent by Jule O'Donnell and responded to by Barbara Jones.

Lin Baker made a motion seconded by Barbara Jones that the Disability Commission send a letter to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen stating that the Disability Commission understands that the Summer St. project is nearing completion and that the Town will soon be accepting ownership of Summer Street. Barbara said that the letter should also state that the Commission wants to know what plan the Town has when they accept ownership of Summer Street to turn the locator signal back on.

Other Business:

Janice Dallas said that Title 3 Section 5 of the Town By-laws state that No person shall operate any vehicle excepting children's carriages and tricycles upon any sidewalk. Janice said this By-law should be amended to state that wheelchairs and scooters for the disabled are allowed on the sidewalk. Jack Jones said to amend this By-law a warrant article needs to be submitted to Town Meeting.

Susan James said that budget cuts made by Governor Deval Patrick would eliminate partial hospitalization, day treatment, and supportive education and employment programs for people being released from psychiatric hospitals. Susan said that this would result in an increased cost to the State by patients remaining in the hospital longer, in addition to the people employed, to provide these services that will lose their jobs and be collecting unemployment.

Jack said that Leslie Mayer, Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission, sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting that they consider designating a handicapped parking space at each of the following locations.

Jason Street near the entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park;

Mountain Avenue near the ramp to the Greeley Playground at Stratton School;

Davis Road near the entrance to the Locke Playground;

Teele Street near the entrance to Waldo Park

Paolo Marinelli, expressed concern that a sidewalk has not been included in the plans to be installed around the perimeter of the proposed parking area at Thorndike Field.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.