

MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2019

Members Present: Cynthia DeAngelis, Michael Rademacher, Karen Mathiasen, Darcy Devney, Liza Molina, Paul Raia, Maureen St. Hilaire, Paul Czech

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon

Others Present: Meghan Dufresne, IHCD Architectural Designer, LEED AP Project Manager
Jack Jones, Director of Housing & Disability Programs
Ellen Leigh, Disability Advocate
Grace Carpenter, Disability Advocate

Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2019:

The Meeting Minutes were tabled until the May 15, 2019 Meeting.

Updates:

Jack Jones said that the Stoneham Commission on Disability is holding a seminar on service animals on April 25th and has invited any interested Commission Members from other Cities and Towns. The location of the seminar is 53 Central St., Stoneham.

ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan:

Meghan Dufresne, IHCD Project Manager, discussed IHCD's approach to completing a Self-Evaluation for the Town of Arlington. Meghan said that the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans is a tool for long-term planning and budgeting. Megan said that for the Self Evaluation IHCD conducts a survey of all departments to review their policies to see if the policies require modifications. IHCD will assist in the development of model policies and procedures and include those model policies in the ADA Transition Plan. Megan also said that IHCD will provide a field review of all Town of Arlington owned and operated buildings to evaluate compliance with the ADA and provide remedial options for compliance. Megan said that ADA Title II for public entities has a primary mandate for program access and not readily achievable barrier removal which is desirable but not required. Megan said that issues of non-compliance will be prioritized for the Transition Plan. The Transition Plan is a tool to be used for the Capital Budget preparation. Megan said that each Town building survey will list issues and costs to correct these issues. Lastly IHCD will prepare an executive summary. Karen Mathiasen said that improved signage in Town buildings is needed also difficulty in the shortage of time given to cross some streets in the Town is a concern. In addition Karen said that the balcony of the Town Hall Auditorium is very difficult to walk across. Also Karen expressed concern with the problem with bricks in sidewalks that often create a tripping hazard. Cynthia expressed concerns about the Town Web Site and raised bricks on sidewalks and also raised tree roots. Paul Raia expressed concern about the length of time allowed to cross some streets. Paul also expressed a serious concern about walking in the Town Hall Auditorium Balcony for anyone with a visual impairment. Paul said that Arlington is working towards becoming an age friendly community but walking at night with low light age is very challenging. Paul Czech expressed concern about hearing accessibility. Paul said that most meeting rooms at the Town Hall are not hearing accessible. Technology is often not available or if available no one knows how to use it. Darcy Devney said that the Town could use

more benches along major pedestrian routes to be more age friendly. Michael Rademacher said that IHCD should have a report on their findings available by late June. Michael Rademacher said that once the Transition Plan is developed the Town will need to allocate a certain percentage of the Capital Budget to address any compliance measures. Michael said that his experience with the Federal Highway Administration is that they have wanted to know how any problems would be fixed and to see that a percentage of the capital budget is set aside to fix these issues.

Discussion and vote for a second working meeting per month:

Cynthia suggested having a second meeting each month for sub committees.

Design Oversights-Arlington High School:

Paul Raia wants to get input from the Commission into the design before a budget has been set. Paul's major concerns are the cafeteria and auditorium. In the auditorium the location for wheel chair users is in the back of the auditorium. Paul also has concern about lighting in the corridors at night for elderly use. Paul said that all meeting rooms should be wired for hearing impaired and that smart blackboards should be installed in all classrooms. Paul said that these and other concerns that the Commission on Disability has should be put in writing. Darcy said that a member of the Commission should be on the High School Building Committee.

Adjournment:

Paul Raia made a motion to adjourn seconded by Maureen St. Hilaire. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.