



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 27 Maple Street, 2nd floor conference room

Attendance: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Liza Molina (remotely), Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Karen Mathiasen, Paul Czech, Darcy Devney, Paul Raia, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others: Christine Bongiorno (Director of Health & Human Services), Ellen Leigh (Disability Advocate), Grace Carpenter (volunteer)

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions
2. September and October meeting minutes unanimously approved.
3. Cynthia DeAngelis informed the Commission that Paul Czech has resigned from the Commission. DeAngelis reported that Paul Raia will take Paul Czech's seat on the Election Modernization Committee and the group discussed and voted to table the Richard Einhorn speaker event until a later date.
4. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator Position: Christine Bongiorno informed the group that the first round interviews as well as the second round interviews have been completed and a finalist has been forwarded to the Town Manager for a final interview. Bongiorno is hopeful that the candidate will be announced soon.
5. Budget: Christine Bongiorno presented the budget expenditures to date. To date, the commission has spent \$3,000 for ADA work to be done on the website, \$7,500 to install 3 door openers on the Senior Center 2nd floor restrooms as well as Commission meeting space conference room. The Commission voted to set aside funds in the assistive tech budget to allow town departments to request funds to make meetings accessible through CART or ASL interpreters for the year. The Commission unanimously voted to approve funds to be used to repair the in/out door openers and mat at the front of Town Hall. The Commission

discussed GPS devices for visually impaired residents in town hall for wayfinding. Bongiorno stated that this can be investigated and discussed at an upcoming meeting. The Commission voted to use the remaining funds on investigating hearing improvements in town meeting spaces.

6. High School Building Committee: Paul Raia reported that the letter that was sent to the Committee from the Commission was not discussed due to budget concerns about the current plans. Raia stated that he will request that the letter be added to the next agenda to be discussed.
7. Darcy Devney updated the Commission on programs at the state level including a project of the MBTA where they will send someone to the home of a disabled person to help them learn how to get to a worksite. Darcy also presented on the 2020 Census and MOD involvement.
8. Michael Rademacher reported that there was a public meeting later in the day where plans will be presented to the community on the Broadway Plaza and Mass Ave sidewalk project. Rademacher reported that the brick sidewalks will be replaced with concrete sidewalks similar to the sidewalks in East Arlington. Rademacher reported that the project will start in spring 2020 and will last 4 months. The concrete surface in Broadway Plaza will be completed a year later due to MWRA water infrastructure needing to be replaced prior to the work beginning.
9. Discussion: Remote participation: Cynthia DeAngelis reported that there has been conversation about allowing the Commission to make a motion to allow members to participate remotely as long as the meetings remain in compliance with the open meeting law. DeAngelis would like to have someone look into the various technologies available to allow for remote participation including the OWL and Webex.
10. Christine Bongiorno reported to the Commission that the current mailing address for the Commission is 20 Academy Street which is not a handicap accessible entrance and proposed changing the Commission address to 27 Maple Street, which is the main entrance for the building. The Commission unanimously approved the motion to change the mailing address.
11. Agenda items for December meeting include: presentation from Food Link, Acting Police Chief Julie Flaherty will visit with the Commission. Next meeting: December 18.
12. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm