

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2013

Members in Attendance: Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Janice Dallas, Heidi Hample

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator, Eric Helmuth (Town Meeting member, Electronic Voting)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. Meeting minutes from 3/20/13 reviewed and accepted

2. Meeting minutes from 4/17/13 reviewed and accepted

3. Discussion Regarding Electronic Voting Equipment

- Eric Helmuth, Town Meeting Member, presented commission with plan for electronic voting for Town Meeting members, handout provided
- His committee has received approval from Town to move forward with electronic voting equipment for Town Meeting
- Presented plan and examples of handsets to be used for voting, discussion regarding ease of use of devices and accommodations that can be made for individuals that require assist due to disability
- Plan is for first year to rent the devices and then purchase if all goes well
- Handsets work by allowing members to press a button on device that will then transmit to computer for votes to be tallied, votes will be projected on a large screen at the meeting
- Vote can be changed if you not an error on the screen
- Plan to include Commission in review of devices prior to selection
- *Our suggestions: Allow for close seating for those that a vision and hearing impaired to have better access to instructions and monitor, designated helpers for those that may require further instruction and/or require physical assist due to disability. Discussion of having a place to hang or set down device as it may be difficult for some members to hold for the entire meeting. Discussion of developing a policy stating that assistance and accommodations can be made to members that require it.*

4. CDBG Funding FY 2014 & Curb Cut ramp project

- 40-50% work has been completed in FY2013 budget- another month or so expected to complete this year's list
- FY2014 \$125,000 approved by Selectmen (waiting on HUD to find out confirmed \$ amount, sometime in June)

- Fund will also be supplemented with \$65,000 from Public Works budget
- Mike reports that current approach to curb cuts is by neighborhood, trying to hit all needed curb cuts in one area, more efficient for construction company
- Discussion of obtaining a map that can be marked identifying work done, work scheduled to be done, and work site suggestions
- John will work on organizing requests to be reported to Public Works, focus will be on commercial areas, school areas, and areas in need (near individual with a disability)
- *Some areas of concern: near Brackett school, Mill St area, Bacon St.*

5. Discussion Regarding Town Meeting (completed for the year)

- 2 years have gone by without a report from this commission to Town Meeting
- Discussion of whether we should send in information now
- Medicinal Marijuana zoning laws discussed
 - Suggestions at Town Meeting to be in only Section B5 (center), did not pass
 - Suggestions to put off until next year's vote, supported
- Molly to follow up to ask for a more inclusive discussion on the topic, Molly to draft a letter to have Commission review, possible to follow up in July/August
- Handicap Parking spot at the Regent-there is a current parking study taking place for the Arlington Center Parking (particularly Broadway plaza), by the Planning Dept
- *Could one of us get on that commission for advocacy?*
- Recreation dept- ADA study, we should be involved
- Should be involved
- Rachel asking about accessible portable toilets at summer st park (by the rink), Maureen to follow up
- Economic and tourist development
- information/temporary visitors booth
- will it be accessible?
- Mike will be meeting with that group (Economic Development Committee) and will follow up with this commission
- Discussion of education to volunteers to offer reasonable accommodations to people visiting the booth

6. Town Website

- Maintenance being performed, meeting minutes being added
- Accessibility- Town to have vendor change content manager
- May have meeting with Joan- Molly has been in contact and developed a handout about accessibility
- *Maybe in July or August we can bring in a computer to access the website together and look at issues with accessibility during the meeting*

7. Mass Ave Corridor Project

- Town wide vote (non binding) very close

- Selectmen support the plan- forwarded it to the state
- 100% of plans have been submitted

8. Letter Regarding Peirce School Play Field

- Complaint brought forward to Commission on Disability and various other Town groups
- Question of are these town (park/rec) vs school responsibility
- Concerns regarding erosion and pathways as well as a location of a bench
- Commission members do not exactly feel that these issues are accessibility issues/ related to this commission
- *Suggestion: improve signage in areas of concern to prevent confusion*

9. Employment Work Shop for Youth held on May 9,2013

- Deferred till next meeting

10. Other business

- Church at 75 Pleasant St. -- Jack reported back to them that their requests were reasonable, has not gone to the AAB (Architectural Access Board) as of yet, when it does they will look for our response to the variance request
- Symmes- Arlington 360, AAB had already made decisions, sink variance denied, no word on the pool recommendations by this commission
- Foster St. (Schools for Children) Agreed to request and the curb cut will be put in, has not gone to AAB as of yet
- *Maureen/Jack to follow up with AAB to update them of our current chair, correspondence has been sent to former chair*
- *Going forward with variance requests- Commission will discuss, then have a final vote after the presenter leaves yet at that current meeting, will go with majority (can document outlying votes)*
- *Commission will develop a document to give a formal input from us Yes/no with an explanation*
- Process for variance requests (as explained at today's meeting) Request that applicant draft a letter for the item they want support(variance) for, this is sent to AAB, AAB sends commission the variance request for out input

Meeting adjourned 6:15 pm
Next Meeting set June 19, 2013