



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission on Disability

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2011

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Community Development
Senior Planner
(position currently vacant)

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky
Susan Roberts

Members Present:

Jane Brown
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky

Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services

Public:

Jason Rosenburg
Alice Walkup
Kathleen Cahill
Heather Platt
Greg Knowles
Sandra Lingley

Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes:

J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and L. Chansky seconded the motion. The Commission voted to approve the November 14, 2011 meeting minutes.

2. CDBG Report:

Alice Walkup introduced herself to the commission. She has replaced Kathleen Cahill as the new Senior Community Development Planner/CDBG Program Manager.

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Alice & Kathleen presented the CDBG project to committee:

Pedestrian Signal: The commission members had concerns about the pedestrian signals at Centre St & Centre Ave and asked Heather Platt to join us in discussing the subject at this meeting. Heather mentioned that at this particular crossing the volume is too low and should be looked at. She also inquired about the pole at NWH.

B. Lischinsky thinks there are some technical issues with the sound & timing of crosswalk at NWH.

Curb Cuts: B. Lischinsky stated the curb cut at 10 Langley Rd where the Ride frequently stops, rain & snow make for a flooding situation with the curb cut the way it is. L. Chansky expressed her concerns about the cul-de-sac at Seton Hill off Washington St. & the lack of curb cuts from one side to the other. The commission reiterated that the placing of a curb cut in general is that they are only installed where there is a crosswalk.

3. Discussion: 41 West St

Commission expressed that they were not happy after reading email from David K. of why the HP space at 41 West St was denied at Traffic Council.

J. Lojek went over the Traffic Council Policy 2 & reiterates that when a petition is filed to go before The Traffic Council and the petitioner is not there to ask questions or to answer them the Council will have to come up with their own determination without the feedback of the applicant.

4. Susan Roberts resignation:

R. Caruso informs the commission of Susans resignation and asks to give thought to anyone who would be interested on joining the COD.

5. Letter to Mayor Warren:

Jason Rosenberg leads a discussion about the letter to Mayor Warren. R. Caruso, G. Plante & J. Rosenberg met with the Mayor a couple a months ago to discuss the proposal & budget, one of the proposed items is to change HP parking fines to a maximum of \$300.00. If fines are raised the money could be used to hire an ADA coordinator.

J. Rosenberg suggests inviting as many people as possible when hearing goes before the Board of Alderman with the hopes of the more voices heard the better chances of the proposal being accepted.

J. Lojek states that the job description for an ADA Coordinator is in the works.

6. NWH ramp & The Music School

G. Plante expresses his approval of the NWH ramp & thanks J. Lojek with his involvement & help of a job well done.

R. Caruso commends the complexity & details of the AAB after J. Lojek reviews & explains the final decision from The AAB on the All Newton Music School.

7. HP space @ 972 Walnut St

The COD requested the opinion of the Engineering Department on the placement of a HP space in front of 972 Walnut St. J. Lojek explains the determination made by the Eng. Dept. after they went on a site visit & determined that the HP space would be in a dangerous location due to the busy street & the size of the space.

R. Larking made a motion to deny the request for an HP space @ 972 Walnut St due to safety issues & J. Lojek seconded the motion.

8. The Ed Center

Greg Knowels, a concerned parent & a PTO member of the Ed Center addressed the commission with what he considers to be a reoccurring problem with the lack of handicap spaces at the Ed Center, the two spaces that they do have are constantly being used by delivery trucks & buses. Public Buildings has helped in the past by patching up parts of the driveway & parking area. Mr. Knowels also has concerns about the Ed Center not being in a school zone & by not being in a school zone they do not have a crosswalk lady and he stated that there are no signs indicating to slow down coming up to the Center.

J. Lojek stated he would have an Inspector from Inspectional Services look into Mr. Knowels concerns involving the Ed Center.

The COD would like to be updated with the Ed Centers progress with the issues stated above.

