



# Commission for Citizens with Disabilities



## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Karin Decker  
Madeline Nicoletti, Chair  
Andrea Pianka, Vice Chair

Norman Smith III  
Joanne Tirrell  
Jennifer Lee

Demetrios Kanavaros

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AUG 15 2016

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, July 19, 2016, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Commissioner Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

### ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Nicoletti  
Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Tirrell  
Commssioner Pianka

### APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Pianka motioned to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith: all in favor 4/0.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Brian Hoose, Former Ward 3 City Councilor, was present to discuss the Whitney Playground Playscape. His concern was that accessibility from the neighborhood itself was not ADA Compliant. Although there is wheelchair accessibility from either end of the street, there is only a hill to access for the neighbors in the vicinity of Shepard Street. He feels that it will be difficult for an elderly person to take their grandchildren there to play. He came to our meeting to inform us that he has already spoken to some of the city departments regarding the construction of stairs. He gave us his card, and Commissioner Smith told him that we would look into it also and get back to him.

### SCHEDULED BUSINESS: FYI

- a. Chair Nicoletti distributed invitations to the MOD 2016 Disability Summit on September 16, 2016 in Boston. It included an RSVP number of 617-727-7440.
- b. An Information sheet regarding new "Reserved for Veterans" parking spaces was also distributed. Businesses that are interested can call Pioneer Seal Coat, 508-615-7325. Pioneer Seal Coat would come to that business and assign a "Reserved

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The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in the City of Westfield.

for Veterans" space by adding signage stating the same and also by painting that parking spot purple. The sign and painting are ADA compliant and also free of charge.

c. Chair Nicoletti stated that she will be meeting with the Mayor on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding the Commission's activities and/or accomplishments for 2015.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. City of Westfield Disability Transition Plan: Commissioner Decker was able to locate a copy of this plan, but due to her absence, this subject was tabled to the August meeting.
- b. Commissioner Nicoletti distributed information regarding the Joint Springfield COD/MOD Meeting on July 27, 2016 from 1:30-3:00 pm. Those interested in attending should R.S.V.P. to 617-727-7440.

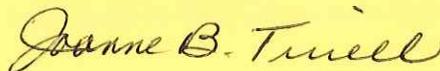
**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Commissioner Tirrell distributed the final update to the 2016 Commission Membership Listing. This information is strictly for use by our commission members.
- b. Business Cards and Name Plaques:
  1. Business Cards: Commissioner Decker left a pack of commission business cards without names. A discussion followed regarding checking with the vocational school to see if it was possible to add names to them instead of printing all new cards.
  2. Name Plaques: Chair Nicoletti passed out a newspaper photo taken during a Southwick Commission meeting. The picture was of the commissioners sitting at a table with name plaques in front of them which appeared very business-like. Commissioner Nicoletti stated that the vocational school is able to make them up for approximately \$7.00 each and that it would be a plus for citizens coming in for public participation to know commissioner names. Commissioner Pianka made a motion to look into getting them made for our commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Tirrell, all in favor 3/1.
- c. Update: ADA Compliant Playgrounds: Due to the fact that Commissioner Kanavaros was not present, this subject was tabled to the August meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pianka, all in favor 4/0. Chair Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

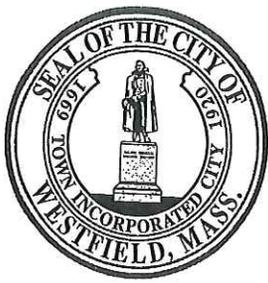


Joanne B. Tirrell, Secretary

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Major Activities FY2015

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1. Presentation Senior Citizens Talking Books: Joyce E. Peregrin, Librarian
2. Speakers: concerns re: the City Bike & Pedestrian Plan: Michelle Brooks/Alexa Repkp WSU
3. Need for Sidewalk railings on Pochassic Street Bridge
4. WPD request for two (2) solar flashing walk signs at Elm Pizza and Westfield Electroplating
5. Overview: Speaker for NEAT and Stavros Programs for persons with disabilities
6. Commission attendance: MA Office on Disability Statewide Meeting in Boston/Agma Sweeney
7. Update on the Park Square Gazebo Project regarding ADA compliance
8. Speaker Lori Lasheness-Hooten: classrooms for children with disabilities require cameras
9. Review on Open Law Meetings Memo provided by Atty. Shanna Reed
10. Progress review by Carol Martin regarding the Whip City Museum
11. New Commissioner Demetrios Kanavaros/replaces Commissioner Agma Sweeney
12. Review of the Commission Mission Statement
13. New Commissioner Jennifer L. Lee/Systems Advocate for Change/Stavros Program

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MAY 11

CITY CLERK