



# Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

## MEETING MINUTES



### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Madeline Nicoletti, Chair  
Andrea Pianka, Vice Chair  
Demetrios Kanavaros

Norman Smith III  
Jennifer Lee  
Joanne Tirrell, Secretary

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, October 18, 2016, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Commissioner Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

### ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Nicoletti  
Commissioner Smith  
Commissioner Tirrell

Andrea Pianka  
Jennifer Lee  
Demetrios Kanavaros

### APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the ~~August 16, 2016~~, seconded by Commissioner Kanavaros, all in favor 6/0.

RECEIVED

NOV 16 2016

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Daniel Paquette, Director of the Westfield Athenaeum, reviewed new projects in the works to bring the library up to date regarding ADA accessible compliance issues. These include 2 handicap accessible bathrooms on the first floor, multi level front desk and a handicap accessible rear entrance with a roof cover. He explained that the front entrance cannot be updated for handicap accessibility due to the stair levels but an elevator was put in on the side for that reason. The plans also include an ADA compliant bathroom on the Lang Auditorium level and repainting the handicap parking spaces in the back. They will be sending out an RFP for construction work and expect the job to be completed in approximately a year give or take.

Also in attendance was Amy Porter, a reporter from the Westfield Evening News. She was listening to the discussion regarding the library updates and took pictures of the construction plans that the Director brought with him.

### SCHEDULED BUSINESS: FYI

a. Chair Nicoletti discussed an email from Jeff Dougan regarding the Westfield Disability Transition Plan, stating that it was not necessary to update as it would be too costly. It could run into many thousands of dollars. The old plan can be brought up to date with addendums, allowing our monies to be used in other places that would do more good for the city.

59 Court St.  
Westfield, MA 01085

Phone: (413) 572-6201

Email: [enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org)

Website: [cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens](http://cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens)

The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full

b. Chair Nicoletti also discussed an email regarding an ADA workshop on October 19, 2016 in Medford, MA City Hall. There are two sessions on that day, one from 8:45 am-12:00 pm (The ADA for Local Governments), and also a session to take place from 12:45 pm-4:00 pm (The ADA and Employment). Any member interested in attending would have to call 1-800-322-2020 as the cutoff date was October 14<sup>th</sup>, but they may still have open seats available. The cost will be \$15.00 for consumers and \$85.00 for professionals, which includes lunch, with checks made out to Stavros.

c. Discussion followed regarding a draft letter which was to be written to Bay State Noble Hospital regarding their van service and parking lot repaving. Due to the fact that the hospital is discontinuing their van service as of October 31<sup>st</sup> due to budget constraints, the letter is no longer needed.

d. Commissioner Nicoletti advised the Commission members that Commissioner Jennifer Lee was resigning her position on the Commission due to the fact that she was moving out of Westfield.

e. A short discussion followed regarding calling in before a scheduled meeting when not able to attend so that a meeting can be cancelled in advance, if a quorum would not be in available.

f. Commissioner Nicoletti stated that the 2 handicap parking spaces in Stop & Shop parking lot and the wheelchair lanes have become so faint that it looks like they have been erased. Stop & Shop is contacting the land owners to request they be repainted and also to request that they have the parking lot pavement restriped. The DPW will also contact Stop & Shop to remind them.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Discussion: Westfield Disability Transition plan: See Scheduled Business for an update.

b. Discussion: Draft Letter for Bay-State Noble ADA Compliant issues: See Scheduled Business for an update.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Business Cards and Name Plaques: Commissioner Nicoletti stated that she needed to have an additional meeting with the Mayor before a decision could be made regarding this item. Commissioner Smith motioned to table this issue to a future meeting, after the meeting with the Mayor has taken place, seconded by Commissioner Tirrell, all in favor 6/0.

b. Update: ADA Compliant Playgrounds: Commissioner Kanavaros stated that he has submitted information to the Park & Recreation Department regarding ADA Compliance, but to date has not heard back from them.

c. Update: City Email Requirements: Commissioner Tirrell requested Commissioners that received their city emails submit them so that our contact information can be updated. Commissioners Nicoletti, Kanavaros and Pianka did so. We are still waiting for Commissioner Smith to submit his. Commissioner Tirrell has also received her new email address. These addresses should be used when discussing any Commission issues as soon as we all have them.

59 Court St.  
Westfield, MA 01085

Phone: (413) 672-6201

Email: [enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org)

Website: [cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens](http://cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens)

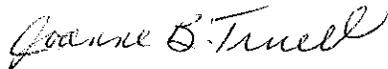
**The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full**

d. Update: MOD Disability Summit 9/16/16 Attendance: no Commissioners were able to attend this September meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Lee motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith, all in favor 6/0. There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joanne B. Tirrell, Secretary

59 Court St.  
Westfield, MA 01085

Phone: (413) 572-6201

Email: [enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org)

Website: [cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens](http://cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens)

**The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full**