



# Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

## MEETING MINUTES



### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Madeline Nicoletti, Chair  
Andrea Pianka, Vice Chair  
Demetrios Kanavaros

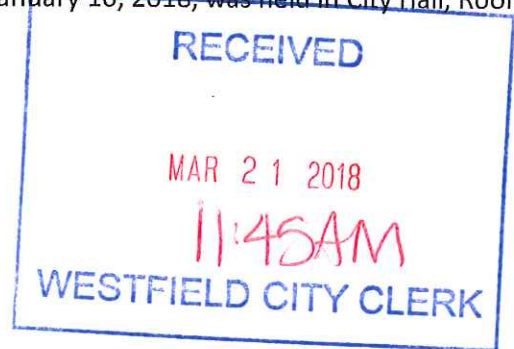
Norman Smith III  
Joanne Tirrell, Acting Secretary  
Carissa Lisee

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, January 16, 2018, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Chair Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

### ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Nicoletti  
Commissioner Smith  
Commissioner Tirrell

Commissioner Kanavaros  
Commissioner Lisee



### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the meeting minutes of December 19, 2017: Motion made by Commissioner Smith to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kanavaros: all in favor 5/0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Nick Morganelli, Chair of the Public Health & Safety Committee was present. He mentioned the safety concerns regarding Union Street and the fact that he has seen citizens riding in electric wheelchairs on the road instead of on the sidewalks. He stated that the street only had sidewalks up to where the apartment complexes begin, but that he has seen wheelchairs operating in the street way before the sidewalks ended. Commissioner Smith said that this safety concern would be best taken to the Police Department, as it wasn't something that our Commission would be able to deal with.

### SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

#### a. Chair's Corner

Chair Nicoletti brought up the subject of the Commission's budget line. Commissioner Lisee mentioned that the amount of monies in that account had not changed since the December meeting, which was \$62,565. Approximately \$52,000 of this is still earmarked for the Park Department, even though the \$400,000 playground grant for children with disabilities will not move forward at this time, and that approximately \$2,500 is still earmarked for the Police Department. This leaves an available total of \$8,065 for other projects.

### NEW BUSINESS:

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 integration and participation of people with disabilities in the City of Westfield.

a. Election of 2018 Commission Officers

Nominees for the Chair's position were: Commissioner Nicoletti and Commissioner Kanavaros. Both Commissioners accepted the nominations.

As Vice Chair nominees did not accept their nominations, Commissioner Smith stated that this position could be eliminated. In the event that the Chair was not able to attend a meeting, the most senior member of the Commission would be able to act as Chair to run that meeting.

Position of Secretary: Commissioner Lisee stated that the Mayor has appointed a new member, Jeffrey Gosselin, to our Commission and that he would be sworn in by our next meeting in February. Commissioner Smith made a motion to hold off voting for Secretary until the new member was present, seconded by Commissioner Kanavaros: all in favor 5/0.

b. Conflict of Interest Training

Commissioner Lisee reminded all members that she has sent a link to this program to their email. The training must be completed by January 31, 2018. Each Commissioner is to print a copy of their signed sheet at the end of the test and the Certificate and send it to her before the end of January.

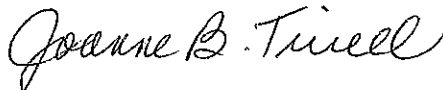
**OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Westfield Transition Plan Grant Update: This item was discussed under Scheduled Business, Chair's Corner.
- b. Use of Traffic Fine Monies: This subject was also discussed under Scheduled Business, Chair's Corner.
- c. Westfield Whip Museum Update: This item was tabled until the February meeting at which time Carol Martin will be present to address the Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nicoletti; all in favor 5/0. Chair Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joanne B. Tirrell, Acting Secretary

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