

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
April 12, 2022

Meeting Minutes



The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, April 12, 2022, was held in City Hall, Room 315A, Westfield, MA. Norman Smith III, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Commission Members in Attendance: N.Smith III, J.Tirrell, J.Gosselin, A.Pianka

Public Participation: Mary O'Connell, 25 Old Park Lane; Dawn Carignan Thomas, 183 Loomis Ridge; both members of the Westfield Womans Club came forward with a request for (2) additional handicap parking spots on Holland Avenue. Mrs. O'Connell stated this would greatly help both the community and the Westfield Womans Club, as this is in the downtown district area. Mrs. Carignan Thomas shared that the Womans Club hosts many events and there is a critical need for additional handicap parking spots.

Lorin Daly, 16 Berkshire Drive, Westfield, MA; Megan Flanning 10 Bekman Pl Agawam, MA; Jared Manard 130 Roosevelt Ave. Chicopee, MA; Megan Flanning shared that they were all college students and studying city government and needed to attend a city meeting.

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair made a motion to bring Item #5 Any Other business up to Item#3; seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; Discussion to Review the Request from the Womans Club for (2) Additional Handicap Parking Spots; all in favor; Motion passes.

A general discussion took place in regards to the proposal from the Womans Club for (2) additional handicap parking spots. Commissioner N.Smith III, shared that he would be in support of this proposal since there is a significant need for this in the downtown. Commissioner J.Gosselin shared that he had been in recent communication on April 12, 2022 with Juanita Mejias, Sgt. Westfield Police Department and Sgt. Mejias told Commissioner Gosselin, that the Traffic Commission was in full support of (2) additional handicap parking spots on Holland Ave. and agreed in the need and safety of the proposal. Sgt. Mejias, also stated that there is (1) handicap spot already in the proposed area and adding two more would serve the public well. Commissioner A.Pianka shared that this is a great proposal and that there is a real need to offer more handicap parking in the downtown.

Commissioner J.Tirrell shared that she would support this proposal as many activities take place at the Womans Club and in the downtown.

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair made a motion to send a letter to both City Council and Traffic Commission in support of (2) additional handicap parking spots on Holland Avenue proposed by the Womans Club, seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; Roll Call Vote: N. Smith III, yes; A.Pianka, yes; J.Gosselin, yes; J.Tirrell, yes; Motion passes; 4/0.

The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities along with critical review and the support of the Traffic Commission voted to send a letter to both the City Council and Traffic Commission in support of the Womans Club request for (2) additional handicap parking spots on Holland Avenue.

Any Other business (Cont.)

Commissioner A.Pianka has been in communication with Carol Martin, Westfield Museum project and posted in the Westfield Forum and Stavaros on the vacancy openings on the commission. Commissioner J.Gosselin shared that we need to continue to distribute the brochures and will bring some to the Senior Center. Commissioner J.Tirrell will drop some off at the Library. Commissioner N.Smith III will drop some off at the Post Office. Commissioner J.Gosselin also shared to be careful with business scams by city email.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of March 15, 2022; Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, seconded by Commissioner A.Pianka;all in favor 4/0;Motion passes.

Fine and Forfeits Account Update:

Fine and Forfeits account update. The update was submitted by Ms. Shelley Zheng, Auditors Office by email on April 11, 2022. Commissioner J.Gosselin, Secretary read the update: Our balance is at 38,760. Playground All-Access Cross St. is at 59,000(project completed). The Police Dept./Traffic Crosswalk signal is at 2,500. The Transition Plan Resolution is at 20,000. Our balance would be at 16,260.

Next meeting planned will be May 17, 2022.

Always check city website and calendar in case of changes.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner A.Pianka Vice-Chair motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell;all in favor. Motion passes. Commissioner A.Pianka, Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.
Respectfully Submitted, Jeffrey Gosselin, Secretary