

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
April 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

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The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, April 18, 2023, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Norm Smith III, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Commission Members in Attendance: J.Tirrell, J.Gosselin, N.Smith III, T.Johnson

Public Participation: Anne Larkham, Personnel Director introduced herself and looks forward to working with the commission. N.Smith III, Chair welcomed Ms. Larkham as our newest member on the commission.

Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of March 21, 2023, seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; all in favor; 4/0; Motion passes.

Fine & Forfeits Update:

The update was submitted by Kim Kolek, Asst.Auditor by email on April 14, 2023. Commissioner J.Gosselin, Secretary read the update: Our balance is at 39,560. Playground All/Access Cross St. is at 59,000(project completed). The Transition Plan Resolution is at 20,000. Traffic Crosswalk signal is at 2,500. Our balance would be at 17,060.

Old business:

Commissioner J.Gosselin shared that he had recent communications with Kim Kolek in regards to the Fine and Forfeits monthly statements. Ms. Kolek shared that Mr.Peter Miller is working with a “new” vendor on the parking ticket fines and further information will be coming for follow-up and review.

Commissioner N.Smith,III, Chair opened up the Information Brochure Project. Commissioner J.Gosselin, shared and read some of the facts and his research on the “Ten Tips” for Safety in the Community. Commissioner J.Gosselin will type up a summary report and send to members by email for a second review at our next meeting.

New business:

Commissioner N.Smith, III, Chair shared a hard copy of “Letter of Support” for Anna Boutin-Cooper’s grant project on Zines and encouraged commission members to read the letter. Commissioner J.Gosselin, Secretary shared that he followed letters of support for past community projects as a clear and principal format. He shared that he received an email from Anna Boutin-Cooper recently and she hopes to hear about any updates on the Zine grant project very soon, within the next few weeks.

Commissioner J.Gosselin, Secretary shared that he sent a response to Tina Gorman, Director of the Senior Center, that due to time frame and other projects we are unable to do a virtual presentation.

Mail Notice: N.Smith,III, Chair; 2023 Earth Day Clean Up, Sat.April 22, 2023, meet at 72 Broad Street, Westfield, MA at 8:00 AM, presented by Mayor McCabe and Westfield Conservation Department.

Commissioner J.Tirrell, shared that she recently attended a Boys and Girls Club fundraiser and was very impressed with the opportunities youth have to participate in all types of activities and clubs, such as dance, art, drama club, etc.

Commissioner N.Smith,III, Chair shared that Special Olympics will be having a fundraiser on May 1, 2023 at Short Stop restaurant, Westfield, MA.

Anne Larkham, asked a question about the city website for the commission. Commissioner N.Smith, III, Chair shared that the city clerks office typically updated the information on the website and mostly ADA concerns are often directed towards the Disability Services in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Next meeting planned will be May 16, 2023. *Always check city website and calendar in case of changes.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner N.Smith, III, Chair motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; all in favor. Commissioner N.Smith, III, Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeffrey Gosselin, Secretary