

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
May 16, 2023
Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED

JUN 26 2023
2:23 PM

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, May 16, 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, A.Pianka, J.Gosselin, N.Smith III, T.Johnson, A.Larkham

Public Participation: None

Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 18, 2023, seconded by Commissioner T.Johnson; all in favor, 6/0; Motion passes.

Fine & Forfeits Update:

The update was submitted by Kin Kolek, Asst.Auditor by email on May 12, 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: Informational Brochure Review-

General discussion; Commissioner J.Gosselin sent out the email with the Safety Tips to be reviewed by members. Commissioner A.Larkham offered to assist in the new design and creation of the brochure. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair agreed to shorten the ADA section and eliminate one photo, to make more room for new information. Commissioner A.Pianka, suggested having an ADA link that people could refer to. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that we are still in the review phase of the project.

New business: Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair welcomed are new member, Commissioner Anne Larkham. Commissioner A.Larkham thanked the members and looks forward to working with us. Commissioner A.Larkham researched the ADA grievance process and shared a document 28 CFR 35.107 and gave a hard copy for members to review, will follow up with further details. City Councilor K. Mello brought this topic of, ADA grievance procedures to Commissioner A.Larkham.

Other: Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that Mr. Peter Miller has been tracking city people with disabilities for data and funding projects. Commissioner A.Larkham just recently received a current report and will present this at our next meeting. Commissioner J.Gosselin shared that the Reminder newspaper May 4-10 edition featured a very large ad with information about Best Buddies International. Many exciting and fun activities are happening all across the state from Boston, Worcester, and Providence RI, and more.

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that the Special Olympics fundraiser on May 1 was successful. Commissioner A.Pianka, shared that she has been very fortunate to get another vehicle and feels lucky to have been able to get a vehicle back and will be getting in touch with the Westfield Whip Museum about any updates. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that he will follow up with the Parks & Rec department about upcoming events and activities. Commissioner J.Tirrell shared that the new brochures distributed at Senior Center and Westfield Bank will get the word out about ADA. Commissioner A.Pianka shared that the Farmers Market is another location. Commissioner T.Johnson shared that the YMCA info table is another location. Commissioner A.Larkham shared that Agawam has a “registry” form for people with disabilities. Commissioner A.Pianka shared that Stavaros used to give these forms to people. It may be online now. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair will research the topic of city and national “registry” and contact Agawam Disability Commission. Commissioner J.Tirrell will follow up with some research with the city police department.

*Next meeting planned will be June 20, 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 7:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeffrey Gosselin, Secretary