

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities  
September 20, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, September 20, 2022, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA 01085. Norman Smith III, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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

Public Participation: None

Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to approve the Minutes of meeting of June 21, 2022, seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; all in favor 4/0; Motion passes. Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to approve the Minutes of meeting of July 19, 2022, seconded by Commissioner A.Pianka, Vice-Chair; all in favor 4/0; Motion passes.

Motion made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to approve the Minutes of meeting of August 16, 2022, seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; all in favor 4/0; Motion passes.

Fine and Forfeits account update:

Fine and Forfeits account update. The update was submitted by Vicki Moro, Auditor by email on September 19, 2022. Commissioner J.Gosselin, Secretary read the update: Our balance is at 39,560. Playground All Access Cross St. Is at 59,000(project completed). Traffic Crosswalk Signal is at 2,500. The Transition Plan Resolution is at 20,000(commitment). Our balance would be at 17,060.

Old Business:

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that we need to update a new brochure. A general discussion to remove some language, insert photo, and update new member names. A motion was made by Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair to Table and have some further review at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner J.Tirrell; all in favor 4/0; Motion to Table passes.

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair made a motion to recommend changing the current 7 member commission back to a 5 member commission and send a letter to the Mayor and City Council President with our recommendation, seconded by Commissioner A.Pianka, Vice-Chair; Roll Call Vote: J.Tirrell-YES, A.Pianka-YES, J.Gosselin-YES, N.Smith III-YES; 4/0 Motion passes. A general discussion by the members to move forward with this recommendation as we use to be a 5 member commission in the past and worked well. Also, there have been several vacancies for too long as a 7 member commission.

New Business:

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair received an email from C.Lisee building inspector, about the (Telephone pole obstruction) on Bates Rd. A discussion was conducted with G & E and they are aware of the issue. Soon the old poles will have to be removed and the city engineer, Allison may have some information and updates.

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair hopes to have further information and updates at the next meeting. A special thank you was given to Commissioner J.Tirrell for bringing this issue to the attention of the commission.

Other:

Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that Ms.Sherry Elander will be honored by the Pynchon Award for distinguished service to the community. The event will be held at the The Delaney House, Holyoke on October 13, 2022. Ms. Elander was a former member of this commission.

Commissioner A.Pianka, Vice-Chair shared that more parking spots (Handi-cap) need to be in the M&T bank area center downtown. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair shared that he will follow up with this information

Next meeting planned will be October 18, 2022. 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 A.Pianka, Vice-Chair; all in favor. Commissioner N.Smith III, Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeffrey Gosselin, Secretary