



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
***HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***

**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

**COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**10 May 2022**

**Regularly Monthly Meeting**

**Commissioners:** Adrienne Pomeroy, Staff Liaison, ADA Coordinator  
Bonnie Denis, Chair  
Holly Simione, Commissioner  
Katie Milton, Commissioner  
Lian Guertin, Commissioner  
Brian C. Postlewaite, Secretary, Director of Engineering

**Assoc. Commissioners:** Henry Edward Hardy  
Pauline Downing  
Harriotte Ranvig  
Colin Killick  
Jamie Perconti

**Guests:** Saavy, Close Captioner  
Ginny Alverson, PTAC-Vice Chair

Note: Due to COVID-19 Shutdown, all attendees were remote via Zoom Meeting.

## **General**

- Draft minutes were late to distribution and will be reviewed in the next meeting agenda.

## **Coordinator's Report**

- Interviews for new commission members have begun.
  - 5 interviews are scheduled
  - 1 scheduling interview
- Attending a Boston disability informational forum later this month, will return with a summary at next meeting
- No news on next procurement training session

## **Chair's Report**

- Officer vote and subcommittees creation will be conducted at the June meeting.

## **New Business**

- 3 Hawkings Variance Request
  - MAAB approved variance for deep sinks in Group 1 units with notification that sinks could be swapped for compliant depth sinks on demand and at no cost.
  - MAAB did not approve variance for deep sinks in Group 2 units. (Group 2 units are move-in ready.)
  - Since the MAAB completed their variance review, there is no action for the Commission.
- Variance notification timing
  - The 3 Hawkings variance request was delivered and decided by the MAAB before the Commission could provide comment during our regularly scheduled meetings.
  - The MAAB meets every two weeks and provides notification to BCIL and the local disability commission & coordinator two weeks prior to the MAAB meeting.
  - The Commission is concerned that we cannot effectively comment on variance requests if the comment cycle regularly completes between regularly scheduled meetings.
  - Discussion of potential solutions:

- Request MAAB to extend notification & comment period to 30 days.
- Raise this concern with CODA (New England Codependents Anonymous), an organization of disability commission members.
- Hold more regular meetings and/or hold more supplemental meetings.
- Rely on Coordinator to review and comment on the Commission's behalf.
- Develop a subcommittee to provide suggestions to the Coordinator.

## **Old Business**

- Accessible Parking Funds
  - A budget list must be developed. This could be composed of a few categories with examples within each.
  - Avoid including items that the City is otherwise required to provide.
  - Commission reviewed list of categories and example items provided in the included meeting materials.
  - RSJ would provide office supplies & refreshments.
  - Concern that accessibility grants could be awarded to for profit businesses.
    - Many small, new, minority, and/or immigrant owned businesses struggle to remain profitable and provide appropriate accessible services.
    - We could consider offering grants via community non-profit organizations that represent local business communities (e.g. East Somerville Main Streets and Union Square Main Streets).
  - Katie moves to establish a subcommittee to review, revise and recommend a completed budget list with examples to submit for city budget and council review.
    - Committee to include Lian, Holly, Harriotte and Jamie.
    - Approved unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn Meeting; approved unanimously.**