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1831-City of Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
(City of Somerville Communications Department - RSJ Department)  
9/12/2022 6:30 PM

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ROUGH EDITED COPY

1831-CITY OF SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
(CITY OF SOMERVILLE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT-RSJ DEPARTMENT)  
AUGUST 12, 2022

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[Start 3:23 p.m. PST]

>> PAUL DOWNING: I have a couple of criticisms you might want to address.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I'm sure Perkins would love to hear that feedback.  
May I give you a call tomorrow?

>> PAUL DOWNING: Yes.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: A better time?

>> PAUL DOWNING: I have to think. If it's decent, in the morning, I have to do a couple of errands and I should be home sometime around noon or a little after.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I will aim for 12:30, 1:00 o'clock.

>> PAUL DOWNING: Can you hold on. Adrienne, made a minute. What? I don't know. I'm in the meeting. Oh, boy. Okay.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: So 12:30, 1:00 o'clock tomorrow?

>> PAUL DOWNING: Yeah

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Okay. I will plan on that.

>> PAUL DOWNING: I noticed there were a couple of missing dots here and there, and I wasn't sure whether it is their machine or what the story was.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Okay. Great.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Hi, everybody. How you are you doing.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY:

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Brian.

>> Are we getting a little rain?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I'm getting a few drops and my app says I'm getting few.

>> PAUL DOWNING: That's what I heard, too.

[Speaking simultaneously]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Adrienne, I heard English muffin.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Brian, I told Holly when she was helping us out at tabling, she needed to go to Vinyl Bakery, and she did.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I haven't been there either. It's too far away.

>> Don't you ride a bike?

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Not much anymore. Somerville is too high to ride a bike.

[Speaking simultaneously]

I have three really good bakeries to get there.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: True, it is Union Square and there are a plethora of options. I will just do this.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: [Indiscernible] must have ins.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: They are saying that for English muffins.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Holly, to answer your question, Vinyl Bakery is on the corner of Marion street and [Indiscernible] avenue. Behind union station.

>> PAUL DOWNING: Anyone ever heard of Union Square donuts?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I personally Tacanes donuts, there's a location in Saugus. I will take Camine's Square.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Did you find the best is before behind the [Indiscernible] station?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: The police station.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Hi, Henry. Here we are, the den of thieves.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I just ate dinner and now I'm hungry again.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I will be eating while we work. Forgive me.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Hello, everyone. Looks like we're waiting for Lian and Jamie might also be joining us. I will give them a couple of minutes and call the meeting to order.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Wonderful. I can rant a little bit about the long Covid study before they get there?

>> BONNIE DENIS: I have that to include on my chair update.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Good. Let it be.

>> BONNIE DENIS: We'll talk more about it then.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Sounds good.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Hi, Jamie.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Hello. Thank you. Been bon it will take a couple of minutes via phone. Are you here?

>> BONNIE DENIS: You are turned sideways, we can see you. Now you are great

>> PAUL DOWNING: This way I can charge it. Let me see. Now Lian is trying to sign on now. While we're waiting, I see two new faces to the group. Welcome Christopher and Joan. Thanks for joining us this evening.

I will do a brief rundown. We have our ADA coordinator, Adrienne. I'm the current chair and my fellow voting Commissioners are Holly Simione and Brian Postlewaite. Thank you, Adrienne. And we're waiting on Lian to join us. And we also have Associate Commissioners, Harriotte Baron pick, Paul Downing and folks that frequently show up on the meetings.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: I am also an Associate Commissioner.

>> BENITA: Sorry. I knew you didn't apply for full Commissioner, so thank Jamie.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: No problem.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Let's start the roll call. Bonnie Denis print? Holly, present

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Present. Brian.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Present. And

>> BONNIE DENIS: And Lian, I just started roll call.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: I am hear

>> BONNIE DENIS: I will start with my chairs report. The outstanding business, the MAAB, mass Architectural Access Board has moved the meeting on 114 professor's row, a Tufts Dormitory and renovations and now will be held November 14 at 1:00 p.m. by Microsoft Teams.

I can share the link to that after -- further into the meeting when I have a little bit more space to type.

And something that Harriotte mentioned Earl your, the National Institutes of Health are doing a long Covid study and that's in Boston area hospitals are participating in. Whether you have Covid now, before, or never had Covid, you may be able to participate. Participants are paid for each visit and I will drop the link to that in the chat in a little bit.

Harriotte, do you want to share more your experience with that?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Sorry. I muted myself. Okay. Yeah. My partner and I, he found out about it from a Washington Post article and told me about it and it goes across the country and you just have to look up recover, and then NIH, and it will

give you the information. And you put in your zip code and it will tell you what medical facilities are participating.

For us in the above the area it is Boston medical center and [Indiscernible] deacon us.

And the cool thing, you get an incredible physical that I have never had in my life under terms of 20 different blood studies and all sorts of different stuff. That will go in your chart if you make them a health chart, it can go straight to your PCP and you actually have a lot more information about your health that it can be useful in a bigger picture.

So it is one three hour intake and then 2 will be an hour. I don't know what, six month intervals or longer for four years. They want people who might be in the area for four years when you do the study. That's it. Thank you. Bon been thank you, Harriotte. A couple of housekeeping things, I know that Commissioner Katie mill ton.

And can our caption -- a couple of city things I wanted to share. And this month the city makes safety and improvements around the square. Improvement includes -- cross walks and highland, college, Denver and Ellis streets. There doesn't appear to be a excelled for crosswalks fourth down baron and sidewalk repair is also not part of this work. There's a link I can also drop in the chat that shows study -- sorry. Not the study, but the website that has the details and more info on this.

Another state project, there's a virtual communities meeting regarding Western Washington street mobility improvements Wednesday November 28, 6:00 p.m., and City Staff will provide an update on the timeline, share public survey responses. Present designs being proposed between Washington street to line street and Western avenue, and get public feedback.

I note in the chat that Brian is offering a longer update on the data square per cuts, which I am happy to have you do after my last piece, which is that the racial and social justice Department of Had a table at the summer streets event on highland this weekend, and Holly represented the Commission. Holly, do you want to share anything about that?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It was a beautiful, rainy day. There were lots of people that came, and there were four of us there. There was lots of interest in what the entire RSJ department does, and I tried really hard to entice people to look at our Commission for being a gentle Commissioner. It was a good day. What do you think, Adrienne. Anything you want to add to that?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: No. You said it all, Holly, thank you for being there. It was a little bit of a rainy day. Yeah. We were excited for Holly to be therein represent the Commission and I will certainly update the Commission as more opportunities come up from RSJ.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Holly and Adrienne. Brian, if you want to share with us the data square? I think we should keep it fairly high level given -- thank you.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This is Brian for those who don't know me. Also the director of the engineering division.

We were able to move some resources around this fall, and are able to move forward with upgrading the wheelchair ramps and crosswalks in the park in the main intersection of Davis square.

There are some wheelchair ramps we can't do right away because of other construction going on and those will be done in its spring. That's primarily CVS.

And right now, we're adjusting the contract, more of a made safe repair of the brick sidewalks in the heart of Davis square.

It is purely to create a safe, accessible root and not the final construction for the square by any means, but we can't wait for the final construction of Davis square to make those corridors fully accessible.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Brian. To clarify, you are going to put corn create over the bricks sore or is this just patching certain areas.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Right now, the plan is to take a five to six foot-wide accessible route and the sidewalk, mostly between the street and the back sidewalk and replace it behind the stretches.

This is not in a contract yet. The goal is to get to a contract and able to execute next summer at the earliest, but depends on other construction phrases to get on to the ground to do did.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. That's exciting and I am Gladys that the city acknowledged that's a safer option for wheelchair users and I hope this grove street is part of that.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: One side of grove street. We're not removing the brick at Kenny park because they are in good condition, but the remainder, yeah. All of the way down to diverse.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thanks. Excellent update.

All right. So moving on to our next topic of business. An election for chair of this Commission. Before we do this, I just want to clear up. There was some confusion last month I said I was stepping down as Chair, and I was leaving the Commission. That's not my intention. I just am not going to be in the chair role.

So Commissioners, anyone interested in taking that role?

>> HOLLY: Be happy to do it. Bonnie. This is Holly.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Holly. Would someone like to formerly nominate Holly for the position of chair in the position.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This is Brian Postlewaite, and I wholly nominate Holly for the chair in the Commission.

>> This is Lian, hold on a second.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Lian. Hi. The motion passes and welcome Chair Simone. The chair is yours.

Communication plan. But before we go to that, I just wanted to see, Adrienne, if there's anything you would like to talk about as well.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: No. Not at this time. I am excited to see your communications plan, and then the only thing I will say preceding that, is that I as your liaison for the city process and communication, so whatever you all decide sporting and creating, I will advise you that and I will let you go, Chair.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: . Thanks Adrienne. This is Holly. The idea of the communication plans probably five, six weeks ago, and what I was thinking is having some organization around the things that we discussed and be able to measure them and see who's sort of leading the charge, and we are all very busy people and lots of priorities as part of the Commission and part of being human beings, I think it would be very good we have a document that we use for public facing and we know what we're working on.

Many of us have brought up ideas, I believe Jamie has in the past and definitely Henry, about ways we appropriate what to do. Many of these things are 0 cost items, through there are time constraints in them. People need to be able to move them through.

This is more of a fluid conversation about ideas and I am hoping that the captioner and brine will be able to have some notes that we'll be able to look back at.

I would like to open it up to, I necessity, Jamie, if you have anything about this subject, as well as Henry, and then anyone else who would like to talk about it? I see Henry with a hand. You want to kick us off?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: My mic. Better?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Perfect.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I hate shouting into the void. I have that often, anyway.

I think there are things we can do use the media, both new and old, like holding events, sending out press releases, three weeks before the event, following up with the media and maintaining media contacts, I think we can do a lot more with your website to make our meetings, meeting transcripts and documents, resources we identify in the meeting, or that we feel are useful to the general public.

I wasn't really prepared for this question, so I don't have the whole list in mind, but I would be happy to circle back and work with anyone else who has an interest in this and assist in drafting it and that would be helpful, thank you. That's all. And this is Henry.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Things, Henry. I don't want to put you on the spot, Jamie, but I thought you had something that fell in this line, and if you would like to speak next, perfectly fine.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: You are kind of putting me on the spot. I don't remember what we were talking about or what you thought I suggested in the past, but if you have a thought about what it was, maybe I can remember?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. Sorry, Jamie, I don't mean it put you on the spot. It was more -- the same with Henry. We brought these things up. [Background noise] and throw out some ideas and possibly create some type of subcommittee or working groups that can start to organize these and get more input. I think that we do a fantastic job talking with each other and sharing stories -- [Background noise]. I would love to see us have more tracking and be able to see the progress, and I'm very visual. And I still use paper. And electronics, but I thought that we could sort of -- yes. Put the communications process into a tool. So is anyone else?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Holly, can you see my hand? It is Harriotte.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think I saw Lian's first.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Sure.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian. And questions as far as website, what capability do we have as far as what we're supporting because I have never seen a actual website, just a page on the city website with the list of Commissioners and was wonder, do we have a sense of -- are we thinking a page on the city website or separate website and how much are we able to customize that and what documents we're able to be uploaded and I want to get a sense of that before putting much effort into a website we can't actually host.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thanks, Lian. I would say you brought up a really good point. We have an existing site through the city and maybe a group decides maybe there needs to be another piece.

I have seen other commissions, whether it is Facebook or using other types of Social Media to communicate things, and I think that discussing what different options we have is what we want to get out there. And you know me. I will just ask. I will be all for, what do you think? Let's try it and chisel it down and see what's manageable and what's a priority.

I thought an open conversation was first.

[Speaking simultaneously]

>> LIAN GUERTIN: A follow-up to that. Do we have a contact with who maintains the existing page on the city website and are we able to collaborate with them if we decide that we want to.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Without a doubt, I necessity the city would cooperate with us and then Lian showing us how to do that, decide what our goals are and what's doable. Does that sound reasonable?



>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think you were next, Harriotte. And then Bonnie.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is sort of stretching the nuance at this meeting or another, I would love to extend it. You spoke of things being on paper. One of the things that came up in a partner's for -- it is another group, Partners for Disaster. Emergency work for people with disabilities.

Quite a few things came up today and really stretches across a big demographic. People who are older, not, who may go to the senior scenter and may not go to the senior center be may even have a flip phone.

What about putting up paper information and invisible places of an extension of with a we're doing. It is just a thought what we're doing here to have people think about as a part of that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thanks, Harriotte. Maybe part of what you are saying is to do some outreach to individuals we don't feel are connected to us, or maybe we don't understand what's the best way for them to receive and send information.

Part of the communication indication plan, who's our target audience and if this meets their need. I think what you are talking about is a really good example on that. .

I'm sure there are other groups people bring forward or have ideas and people can check in and say, these are what we're doing. Make sense?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And I think standard extendedly, church communities and language communities and try and chart it out and see what we can work through.

It really hit me that a lot of people doesn't have computers or smart phone facility.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: They exist across all parts of our city. They all have a voice, we just need to figure out where it is. Miss Bonnie.

Do you have a table for today?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Leave the table? I will be a stool. How's that?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Great.

>> BONNIE DENIS: So a couple of things. In terms of other sites, I don't know if Jamie is still with us, but I know Petak a lot of people pay attention to how they manage that and how that intersects with the city. In addition to the formal website, there's a Facebook page. We do not control that. So I don't know if Adrienne is the person you would work with to post to that.

And in terms of communication in general, that's sort of outside of scope of our own communications -- or it includes our own communication and further -- so

one of the things Jamie had done is put in a lot of work in reinforcement of the agenda to be more accessible because it wasn't very accessible.

It used to be something that was printed out on paper, and when it was handed to me, there was a lot going on and now, it is a lot more streamlined and makes it easier for stream readers and possible to get to translated to Braille because there needs to be simple formatting for that on any materials.

We should be working on continue to go do the plain language, and I think those are things to think about in terms of our own communication, and definitely, I think getting out fliers and other visual things in the local senior center and other uptown locations is good, but I hope also as a rule, anything we print to paper also make sure is done in Braille and available at different locations in the city.

And I think just in general, there's a lot of city accounts that post information that are heavily picture-based and don't includes alt text, so I think something in your plan should be doing a little more outreach there and educating City Staff. Because people can't access the information. And I see this all of the time on Twitter, where with constituents are writing out what's on the images and also files that are not accessible to create a guess that works on them.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you, Bonnie. Great point.

I do think a lot of things we stumble across with people with disabilities is educating others what we need, what we're missing and the underneath education really includes education.

I'm sure at a very high level of the city, there are people aware of plain language. There are people aware of alt text. But maybe that hasn't gone across, and maybe it is not us to actually make that happen, but maybe it is on us to bring it to someone who can then see it through. I like all of your ideas as well.

I want to let our noncommission members or attendees tonight, they are welcome to raise a hand, ask a question, provide a comment.

And I am is not sure if it was Lian or Joan -- it was Lian? Okay. Lian, have you the floor.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: One thing tied into its centers and what's is available to the centers, it will also be great, once we do start having relatively regular things we're putting out, whether announcements, letters or negative, positive, to both online and at any of these places where you are posting information also have some sort of way it sign up for getting the information correctly, in the preferred format, whether that's a paper mailing or if that's like a paper newsletter, or e-mail newsletter in a particular language, so that if there are people who have expressed direct interest, we're able to get the information to them directly in a way that works best for them.

HOLLY SIMIONE: Great input. Joan?

>> Joan: Hey, I'm joining in and listening today.

I have two comments. I just came from a SAS meeting and we were possibly putting safe streets guidance tips in the council of Asian newsletter, so if you are looking at that, that's a great way to do that.

Another thing. It was actually really hard to find this meeting. If I just Googled Commission, the meeting didn't come up. I had to type up the word "Meeting" for the meeting link to come up.

I can't tell from the home page how to get to the meetings. So that would be my suggestion on how to find these meetings.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You know what? I appreciate you being here and taking the time. We all appreciate the work you do with SAS. There are a lot of things that overlap that you work on for us as goals as well. And the council on Asian. My background is [Indiscernible] anything web design, and getting added. Hospital buildings, they have a branch and nothing makes sense and you can't get here.

It is really hard to go back or move forward with all of the information that the city has. I, too, have tried to find things. There are areas where he don't show up on a pull down list or something isn't here.

Baa part of communication is meaning to find those things moving forward, and I think we'll have it in a minute, what you mentioned and then I think those are the things that when we see them, I don't know, Adrienne, would that be like a 311 request? Or maybe if someone put in a 311 request in the city and say, I'm researching this on your week site and it doesn't work.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Probable direct and as far as efficiency to reach out to me to reach out to the web team for something. I have taken note of what was previously said. And I will check into that. And of course, everybody has my e-mail or if you wouldn't to do it through Holly and she can tell me about it. I'm happy to check on stuff if it is not in a way of a peering.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Please don't use me as the first pass. Please, reach out directly for the person who does the work. But I don't want to be the person that you stick and in slows you down.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Whatever is fine. I am happy to check into it.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Who else had a hand up? Harriotte. We'll have to wrap this up in the next ten minutes or so, and conversation ending.

>> Frank Lee: My name is Frank Lee and I'm Harriotte's partner. This is about a curb cut issue. One thing we have noticed about the curb cuts, that whenever it rains or snows, the curbs get filled up with rain, snow and mud. I think that's an accessibility problem.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It is.

>> Frank: There needs to be a solution.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Bonnie has a very forward hand.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I wonder if Brian can tell us if the crosswalk excelled are going to be raised? That eliminates a lot of that so there isn't that dip.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Holly, do you want to do this detour?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Sure. Green, green, green. That is Brian Commissioner director engineering.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: We try and put in higher crosswalks and involved in the hire implementation, we're try egg to do higher crossings and if you are owe on a length of a coordinate door and not having to go on a side street, the raised crossings we want to do, and for the main part, making sure that's not a low point, and that resolves most of that concern. But to be honest, we don't always have the ability to is adjust the grades and the line on the street so we can eliminate that entirely. It is an extraordinarily challenging.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

>> Frank: Thank you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You have nine more minutes. Lian, you want to follow up? Loan lean I want to follow-up on the difficulty of finding the meeting. I did finds the Commission's page on the website. And I don't know that is a full solution because finding that page is difficult.

But I see nothing it mentioned to our meetings, not a link or even a "This is when it happens." I think that would be a good low-hanging fruit and people searching for that, they don't have to search again for meetings specifically.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thanks, Lian. Last call for comments on this subject? I am not able to look at the chats and look for arms.

Anyone else want to add to the conversation? I don't see any -- Christopher? Go ahead, Bonnie.

>>

>> BONNIE DENIS: I wanted to say the meeting is linked from the critical Dar page, but unless you are somebody already big in Somerville politics, you don't know that page exists, so --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Nothing like a good website that has more web so you can reach everything from multiple places. A good design sometimes invites you. Anyone? Okay. Oh. Hi. Kris; right? Not Christopher or do you go by Kris fer?

>> Kris fer. Maybe you have boxed me into a different part of your agenda ton. There are a few potential cross sections. I'm a Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Somerville and there are a few interests that we would love to work on together. Last year, in the fall, we had a meeting where we talked about the intersection of civil rights and people with disabilities when it came to hate incidents. We had a night where the civil rights unit came and spoke specific cases to that, and how to report and some links.

And in terms of your conversation at the moment. I applaud that and something your own Commission would educated and spearheaded in lava and if you would like, I would extend my comments along the lines of potential intersections that I had brainstormed, and it kind of possibly put them into a future business conversation.

What do you think?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think that's a great idea. And I also think that monthly meetings are hard to get input or show progress, or really, they are kind of more high level in my opinion. I know we have some working groups, so I think we would really need some people to dedicated some time, and I think that our -- all of our different types of Commissioners on the call here have amazing experiences and life stories to add to there, and I think seeing and asking if they are interested in leading something like the communication plan or how maybe we can work across other commissions like yours, the Warren Commission on several of them are up to our stay. Adrienne, I have a question, but yes. Christopher, I think those are great readings. Writing something once and re using it with old software. And that is the thing. If you write it and other people share it. As long as it doesn't become a website.

Adrienne, what other commissions fall under RSJ in forgive me. I can't remember.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: The one Kris represents, the Human Rights Commission and after that, the women's many rights Commission.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. Bonnie, you will have to help me here. Um -- continued business.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes, that would be accessible parking funds on the agenda we have share information on possible spending, and if we come to consensus, vote on projects to fund.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. You get two votes tonight. Just I kidding.

>> Katie. She's asking about what is a cut out.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think you should be there every night.

>> Katie: Back to mute.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: There are accessibility parking funds, do you know this information, Christopher?

>> Christopher: I am listening.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: there's a piece of legislation and trickles down from the Federal level to the state and then I am [Indiscernible] and adopted the Commission and also using the handicapped parking funds, the fines collected and funneling them through, it is a very long well managed process and we now have the tools and resources and the structure to understand how we can use those funds.

And the overarching rule is, they are there for enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities in the City of Somerville. That's it. And there are clearly the structure and process, amounts and how this gets involved and approvals, but the piece that's most importance is we have such a great opportunity for those things.

I think -- I know Jamie, I have gone back and forth with him on an e-mail and I quickly disappeared, talking about discussing some of the things and doing research on ideas and that's where the needs were and we also had the women's Commission. Talking about Bonnie, remind me -- after school?

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Not the women's Commission. We had somebody from the -- oh. I'm going to fail at names. He's a Somerville client that --

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Was that jewel why, too. There was a name for it. It is the parents Commission for children with disabilities.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Katie, I think knows this.

>> Katie: Hold on. Like SNICK.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: We can call it Julia. And she was looking how to help create programs that are more inclusive or appropriate for students who need different services from the city.

I think maybe Christopher, there are things in your compilation that are challenges and I'm not saying I'm opening the door to your Commission. For all of this, this is clearly -- we're transparent, we're a city and everything we do is public, and I think that's important that your Commission and others know that input and ideas, there will be some sign of a way it send those in a manageable format that are patient important to us.

The overlap is there, and I think it is understanding how do we, with one action able more than one thing to happen. Sort of fix it for other people.

There I go again, put Jamie on the spot. Would you mind talking about any of that? If you don't know don't have any updates, that's fine.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: This is Jamie. I don't have any updates and I have done some initial contact with some people during the previous meeting with the Commission and one before that and tried to get a conversation started, then things got busier for me, so I believe the last happened is shortly after last month's meeting, I forwarded everything to you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Oh. Okay. In an e-mail?

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Yeah.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you. I'm not embarrassed to say, my unread e-mail account at the moment is 8,166, and of that, 75 94 are not junk, or at elite least haven't been moved to junk yet. So you are very important and I will find them.

This is why they always tell me, oh, you memed me. Laugh out loud, Bonnie, you should be. And brine, you don't have to hold back. It is perfectly fine.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian, I finally got to it this February to find the e-mail. I know exactly where are at.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I am on a bagel list this week. Why am I a bagel's fan. I canteen find important things, I don't need bagel updates.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Going back social education parent Advisory Council. SEPAC.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That was good. I see your hand it up on me, Bonnie. Please.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I'm only laughing out loud because mine is 15,14 5, so I have you twice over. I don't think there should be an award for it. In terms of funding, I have an update I pointed to share.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Please, do.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Sorry, I will be attacked by a cat in a second.

I had brought up accessible bikes and its possibility of working with some local adaptive organizations to try and do some one off days in terms of allowing people with disabilities access to beaks in Somerville in preparation to try and have something before doing a full-on program.

There are other cities that keep bikes year-round. It is pretty complicated, and I think in Somerville mostly because of their space. You would need space at the store for the bikes and having staff it unlock them and look them um because many people with disabilities can't just walk up, grab a bike and get going.

Ly use myself as an example. I need to wheel and my wheelchair needs to go somewhere, I need to transfer and the height needs to be correct practice anyway shall, I spoke with one of the organizations, [Indiscernible] point adventure and booked until June of 2023.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So they are a really large organization with lots of people helping, or there's just a huge need.

>> BONNIE DENIS: It is just a huge need and fairly small organization with robust volunteers and working to build in-house staff capacity. They don't have enough staff to run as many programs as are desired.

I know Somerville school system that works with 'em this already has already asked about more programming and unless they find more staff, they are not able to do that this year.

I am not dropping it, but there's Spaulding rehab I might be able to partner with. I want to update that I don't think it will be a thing that we end pup funding in the next 8 to 10 months because there's not capacity.

But I know SAS is also interested in this. And I don't know if Joan wants to speak on that? No pressure. I know there might not be a lot of info, but I wanted to be sure there are people helping to brainstorm this.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Now, Joan, you are on the spot.

>> Joan: This is Joan. I think we were hoping, well, we would like to help in any way that he can, and I don't know that we can help with the staffing issues, but I think it sounds like the right aid parking lot was a potential parking spot for these adaptive bicycle storage location and it sounds like Lance Davis is very on board with that, so I guess we're back with the staffing.

SAS is ready to help in support in any way this group feels like it helpful

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian. I remember at some point there had been mentioned a different t partnering with physical chop. Has anyone reached out to probably the east wheel works approximately about the bike path to see if they have a capacity both on staffing and space, and would potentially be interested in doing some sort of partnering with hosting a couple of accessible bikes or adaptive bikes and being on hand to assist with whatever getting people on, and up the -- walk to the actual bike path?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You know, Lian. I am sorry, I will interrupt your thought in a second. I apologize.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: That was the end of my thought.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: There are multiple types of accessible bikes because there are a lot of needs people have in a bike.

We used to go as a family every year. DCR would have an accessible event and they would showcase all these different bikes and have this area where all of these different types could be tested out and see with a they are about. It want a selling event, but showing you the types of beaks and made sure everything is fit to the person and in my case, my daughter and I were both on the bike.

And just in a little circle, and you can actually take the bike go along the path there. And I think there might have even been information on plans and how to obtain bikes for personal use.



One thing that always got us is they are huge. And depending on the age of the person who needs them, they can age out quickly they can become something that's not as useful.

There is a -- like a -- used to be a big guy in a van, goes around and picks up accessible equipment, which includes bikes and freshens them up and gives them to another person who needs it. Carry it forward -- I don't remember the name, I know it was a success. There are people who have knowledge and I love the idea, and there are other people who would like to help with this.

If we were a voting group, I would say Jamie, that's something good on your list that you should talk about a little more.

I think either funding someone who can run a clinic and introduce different types of bikes to people in a safe environment, so that we and the city are not responsible for that. .

I think how can we fund this? And also, we can communicate on funding resources, or possibly ask individual groups say special Education Department. Or Parks and Recreations, and there are people that therapy focus would include biking and see what would help them.

Miss Bonnie.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I think Joan had a hand up first? Or okay. Yeah. So a clinic it is what I was talking about. I reached out to on point adventure and they have primarily tandem bikes doing a lot of work with autistic -- primarily teenagers but some young adults as well.

A lot of people who are blind, and people who have intellectual disabilities and they may or may not now have one hand signal as well. There was somebody in Somerville getting rid of one that I connected them to and they planned on picking it up. Their collection is more than DCRs.

And [Indiscernible] have a small collection bigger than DCRs and you can sign up to have access to a bike and you are paired up with someone who fits you and you give the information beforehand. I haven't thought about DCR, and I think they would be a Good to partner with.

I think adding DCR to it would be good.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: What's DCR?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Department of Concentration and recreation.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I saw that great stuff. I thought brine was next. I'm not sure. Would you like to go now?

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This is brine. The conversation moved on and we landed where I thought he were going. Never mind

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So you are happy.

>>

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I'm happy.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Joan?

>> Joan: I was going to brainstorm. Does this have to do search warrant other cities look Boston, maybe it is something on memorial drive or something that happens at the Navy grader. Two cities can potentially pull their resources. It looks like Bonnie has an answer.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Go ahead, Bonnie. What's your answer.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. So it is not Memorial Drive, but Soldiers Row, where the big park does their annual web fair. And the Navy yard is basically where Spaulding operates out of. Their building is in Charlestown and they have the whole directive building and people start there and bike all along the piers and if you have enough energy, you go over the bridge over the point at north park and go around there.

The idea is talking about the idea of somebody had something dedicated and not just these one off days and having a robust program year-round and people don't have to do the one-offs and don't have to travel for it.

And I think teaming up and trying to do something closer for people is totally possible. And essential essentially certainly, if we're talking about communication, and broadcasting it, a lot of people are not aware and that's a super useful for people not aware.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Maybe it is access America? It is a nonprofit and do adaptive, probably biking, but definitely boating, and they are connected through Spaulding, and you have heard of them, Bonnie? Anyone else heard of them? I don't know. It is been a long time since I had an opportunity to engage with them. But, you know, access sports. Getting an answer back from John. Access sports is what it is called.

I guess we have a lot of good ideas. Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian. In terms of partnering with other cities, I -- on the one hand would slightly hesitate, just in terms that the farther away things are introduces another barrier to entry.

One potential -- I don't know how good this idea is and I have never been there myself and don't know how crowded it is and how much space there's.

I know Cambridge closes down I think it is memorial drive to car traffic and that could be potential -- not literally anytime, but that feel like it would be a good place to have a regular mobile thing, leak having a set of bikes here every weekend, and not like the same, like, just a one-off. And then that also was sort of where I was going with, can you partner with my CHOP to post not really the size of the fleet we really want, but maybe that's a way to start up a permanent program without trying to completely buildup the spacing and staffs for nothing.

If there's anything that has that capability and interested in partnering, that would be a good way it owe have at least a few options available at any time.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thanks, Lian. What if we had a low key event, I am not what it would be exactly, but maybe acquire the bikes more as grants. We talked about accessible biking, invited a couple of people, maybe someone from DSR and maybe an event. And the compilation decided instead of finding where to keep the bike or who needs the bike, to access an organization and maybe it is a therapy group that works with the people or maybe someone who deals with different people who would need bikes and use them more and therefore, we fund the actual bike, but they are the ones making sure it is maintained, trained, used. I am thinking of ways to get bikes out there and bike safety for all, but that way, you know, the individual groups would know what they need or what they are looking for. Does anyone -- I see heads moving b you that was just a thought. Joan?

>> Joan: I was going to say to Lian's point. That's what I meant about memorial drive shutting down once a week. It seemed like a good opportunity and another thing, maybe brine can chime in on it. There's a new group right next to 93, and it is supposed to be building a bike-O-mage sort of thing, having displays of bikes and bike storage and assembly for the community and seems like they have a lot of open space for biking.

Obviously, it is not for this year, but it might be a good possibility for something next year in the future and I think they are still configuring the floor space. It could be something that we talked about possibly funding that space holding these bikes and being able to check them out there.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's nice.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This is brine, and I have not heard of that. I wouldn't be surprised. Most new buildings are required to have a certain percentage of their square footage for community uses, but that community uses could be delegated to a particular operation, or nonprofit group and so forth. It is actually a good idea why to try and leverage developers and fill that space with something that might be fitting their other social goals they are trying to show.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yeah, the assembly scare, the original piece, it is really hard to tell where it was. Not as I call it as disassembled square, but the original assembly square, where the storage and TJ max I go to seek dark and quiet. That used to be a Ford plant. That's where they assembled cars, isn't it in brine, you are shake your head. Maybe? And the shelf it, they had to keep the original shell because that was the original planted and that's how I believe they became is assembly square when I was in high school. That's where me first said that.

And disassemble now. Greenfield and taxi there. And both lovely areas.

I never heard about the bike piece. I'm sure in that year where they assembled bikes, too. Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: I love the idea of having a permanent space with sufficient space to actually have additional assembly. Ideal one would be an assembly and one could be more aren't chorale and maybe hard to get to, especially if you are disabled. Finding a space along the bike path feels harder.

One thought I had that I don't know enough to information about what's going in. With the green line ascension and standard and extending the bike path.

Anybody know in the building or in path process or bike extension that could be a potential place that could store a fleet of bikes?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Good question. Anyone have comments? I don't have any.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. As far as I know, they are putting --

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I don't think so. I don't know who's turn.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Harriotte, are you talking to the meeting or did you go on mute? Unmute by mistake?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I'm sorry. Can you hear me?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yes. I wasn't sure if you were addressing us or --

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I was. From walking over to Laurel street from Davis square, numerous times, with friends, we have not -- or people have not commented, and I likely notice if there are large buildings and there are large apartment complexes and private residences. And I think as you get toward the station, there's open land, but beyond that, looking at Google maps, or Google Earth might be a good way to check it out. That's all. Thanks.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Brine, you are always part of my bike expert. Blue bikes, to do they offer accessible bikes? That would be a good business to invest in.

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I don't believe -- no. They don't have accessible bikes that I am aware of.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's unfortunate. Does anybody know any other community that has a problem like this?

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Yes, that's why I started bringing this up. There are many other communities, and I talked about a few of them. Acton recently started one up. Part of their Parks and Recreation and he this have a big green space next to the river and they check bikes out during certain hours for three hour chunks.

Portland Oregon partner was a bike shop and have a pretty robust program. There are a lot of other cities that do it. Many people approach the bikes and [Indiscernible] bikes doesn't have an interest in providing accessible bikes.

There was a different company that did sort of a trial run of accessible bikes, but that company I think is either no longer in existence or no longer in the Boston area.

In terms of a couple of things that were mentioned so, ace wheel works are who Spaulding uses to service their bikes. It doesn't seem to be like they have a lot of space, but I think that would be a great arena, if someone SES has the capacity to talk to them. They certainly know how to service the bikes and would be open to learning. I don't know if they have the space.

As far as by the bike path, there are no buildings planned. There's a park under process for being planned, and it doesn't have a ton of space. It is not very wide and kind of a long, narrow strip. And as far as I know, there's not a lot of space there. I think the assembly is probably the most promising in doing long term bike storage.

And it is probably a good time, if Joan it get to the plan and talk to the developer, while all of the new buildings are putting in bike space, I have only seen one with anything that could remotely be considered enough room for adaptive tricks. When [Indiscernible] montage, I think is the name of it bean green Miss Ella?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Oh yeah. One the large building using. They have to the right of room, it is the size of a garage and will fit hundreds of bikes. Of that entire space, there are two spots somebody who uses a wheelchair and trick, maybe can access it and have enough space to roll in, get a bike of that size in and out and there are also cargo bikes people have that will be competing for those spots.

I think if there are a developer planning to do some sorts of big bike space, getting together with them and ensuring room would be good.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So we need account bike park. Or flexible accessible bike parking.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian, and yes, not just in developments, but also in general, like on street bike parking or on sidewalk, or hover a lot of the existing bike racks have not set up to take anything that is not your standard two wheels and one line put anything, whether it is trailer, trick, or [Indiscernible] trick verses an trick.

And the beaks are not set you racks are not set up to accommodates that. And just in general, that's the thing.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Hey Katie, I met you the first time you were on a bike.

>> Katie: Yeah. We're getting on the bus to do Girl Scout camp

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I was clinging to Amy because she disliked the bike so much.

>> Katie: My only feedback, sorry. We just finished bath time. Always fun. I always liked the ailed ya of having a fun event to promote the organization and promote the committee and the safe streets -- hold on. If that's all I will say.

I really like the idea having a time with people getting together and having a nice time.

I like the idea using funds to sponsor this.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So a community event?

>> Katie: Yeah, a community who don't always get to participate in some of these things. I think have it for them. It and I think that's a positive thing and -- I don't know anything else about accessibility.

Yeah. That's my thoughts.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. I think we're at the any other comments section. Just magically added to the agenda invisible ink. Any other topics or business. I don't think we should vote on projects to fund.

I wish I had a list of some sort that -- of ideas that we can vote on sort of put our arms around and figure out how to do that. .

I certainly think that a fun event is on there. Bikes is on there. My brain just shut off.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Can I add something to the limit here, or just summaries what I heard.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I have room.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: What I'm hearing in the short term, a fun event, which even conceivably public size the accessible biking and it will be a seed planting for interest and support for a longer term project, which I hope we can work out who might research the assembly Square Mall building or buildings, and some of the other possible options that would create a more ongoing opportunity for accessible bikes and bike maintenance, not all in your laps, about you may be distributed with different partners.

Yeah. I see there's a long-term and then there's a fun, enjoyable event to bring us together. That's it.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Yeah. I don't have any ideas on the actual invitation to this, but to add to your list of potential areas that we talked about. And we should probably explore on the [Indiscernible] end, the after school programs.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: After school camp is another big one.

Henry, have you been too quiet.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I was trying to educate myself about cities that have adapted bikes. It likes like Portland Oregon had a pretty expensive program and maybe dumped it and donated the bikes replaced by nonadaptive bikes.

It looks like the program in Detroit I put in chat maybe still active.

I can look into it further and better inform myself and if I find something that might give us guidance.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I have a general question, Adrienne.

As far as Commission rules, with cannot debate things outside our meetings or discuss things that have to go put to a boat.

How can we communicate either through e-mail, exchanging ideas and wondering if you know how. Henry.

I don't wanted to be blocked. Hey, I learned this information and something within a gathering of information.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I won't want to jump ahead because you have a question from the chair.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I will say something, I know a lot about OML and rules and we know Henry is the resident expert in these sorts of things.

I have been part of other board meetings that's a dedicated time for the public for there, and sort of brainstorming and talking things out and then making a plan on what you want to take objection on these things, whether it is an agenda further down the road.

If you need more information on a chair thing in order to make that decision next time around, you delegate somebody or use that sample liaison and that person can come back to the next meeting and present that before the decision is made.

That has been my experience, but I'm happy to hear Henry's thoughts as well.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: May I be recognized by the chair?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Oh, yeah. Go right ahead.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Thank you very much.

Adrienne, you probably know more about this than I do, but what I would suggest, it is not that we can't talk to each other, but can't talk to each other secretly. I see some heads. Would you say that's accurate? If with have a discussion that includes a quorum on the committee, that has to be decision coverable and we don't hide and it keep it so we can find it. That's my suggestion.

Is there someone else comments from the city perspective?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Brine, that's something to add. I have a feeling --

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: What I have always been told after working in a couple of commissions and open meeting law and working with the council, is that members can talk to each other outside of the meeting.

Members can foot talk to each original outside meeting if they constitute a quorum. It is fine to be one-on-one on one conversations, but in this group, I think a quorum is con stated with three people, you can have a one-on-one conversation, but no more than three outside of the meeting.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Can I send an e-mail?

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: You cannot send an e-mail asking for feedback if the recipients can reply all. So the best practice is if you want to receive feedback from all members.

If you ask for members to submit items for the agenda or question about dates, the best practice is to have everybody on blind CC and nobody can respond all.

And it isn't absolutely wrong to have a group e-mail list, but it is really, really easy to run afoul, if it is just coordinating agenda and dates and schedules or announcements, you can have a group e-mail.

But it is really easy to get beyond that into a conversation, and as soon as you are conversing about a topic Jermaine to a Commission, are you violating open meeting law.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So I understand exactly what you are saying and the reasoning and none of us would want to do that to jeopardize our Commission and our rules.

It is really hard with you receive part of a blind copy e-mail to see who else has that information.

And just to be able to talk about it. Like to my family. A general e-mail goes out and I don't know what friends are on this, who got it and who doesn't and I share with someone, hey, did you hear about this.

I understand it is very different because of what our structure is. But how can someone like me who has issues of communication, understand how do we do that? I guess I'm confused.

I don't want to take us off topic, I know it is almost 8 okay. Bonnie, you want to respond?

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. And before we get that that, Associate Commissioners do not counseled towards quorum and we have commission and there could be smaller quantity of voting members and commissioners that can converse outside of the meeting on topics, as long as we don't have a quorum of commissioners.

Is people who want to help it is perfectly legal to have those conversations.

As far as knowing who the e-mail is it is sent to. I know we have gone over this before. I will tell you, the e-mail list I use currently consists of all



Commissioners and people who routinely attend meetings that have expressed interest in receiving those notices and a City Council member has expressed interest.

Something like the communication plan, it would be trivial to set up a group e-mail for this Commission that we can advertise that people can opt into and doesn't have a reply function that's just something to receive information.

I bet this is another thing that SAS can help with because they have an internal e-mail, they use for the people who run SAS and they have an external one from the public who want to be kept up-to-date on virus projects they have going on.

So that would be a really great way of letting a community know you can stay up-to-date, and sort of, you, as the chair being able to see who all has opted into that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: We have two or four minutes left. I can't tell if that's a 6 or eight. It was a sieve. We have three minutes left.

Whose hands are the hottest. Any hands you want to raise?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian, and Brian conferred a lot of what I was going to say of the but my information. One way and when it comes to discussion. One thing that could be helpful, is the sorts of things you would say in updates in a meeting, sending those out as an e-mail, Bccing every.

Sooner, and if something happens week in, it would be helpful for people to know. And something like I felt inspired to go to a bike shop and have a conversation and we don't have the meeting and someone let's call the bike shop and have the same conversation and something rather than starting a discussion, and if an individual wants to reach back out for one on one, I think that would be fine.

And then, also to address the [Indiscernible]. I don't know that there's a technical way to definitely know who exactly it was isn't to. But we can try to have a social convention, if you are CCing, include in the message, this was isn't to these people and there are a certain amount of, you have to trust the actual list they are putting it on.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Is that aloud Adrienne, Henry, Bonnie, to say, Bcc and I'm shearing this information with...

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: That's fine. The point for the Bcc is to keep people from replaying all and avoid the conversation. It is perfectly fine to tell anybody who are e-mailing this to.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Got it.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I will try and keep it very brief. Political parties talk about all of these issues and obey none of these rules, thank you. They end.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Cool of the we're not one of them. But I don't mean that in a bad way, Henry. We're going to make it work and not break the law; right?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I don't think you should let yourself be intimidated by there, Holly. I think there's a power imbalance here, and this only flows downhill hill

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Now I understand what your perspective was, yet. in other words.

You know, if I can do it right the first timing, then that's easier for me.

Okay. It is 8:00 and I know how many seconds. I appreciate everyone being here. And I appreciate all of our guests today, and that's it. Oh, we need to have a motion to and the meeting?

>> BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I move to close the meeting.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian, I second.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Adjourn is what I think we're looking for  
of the

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Don't we vote. All in favor?

>> Eye.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: All right of the we're adjourned. I will be blank  
e-mailing you.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Congratulations Holly.

>> Congratulations,

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You are still the spinning chair. Where did you go? Bye, everyone.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Bye.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you, everyone.

[End of meeting 5:01 p.m. PST]