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1831-City of Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
(City of Somerville Communications Department - RSJ Department)  
8/9/2022 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 9, 2022

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[Start 3:25 p.m. PST]

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Hi Jamie.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Hey, how are you?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Good. Staying cool?

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Trying to.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Hi, Henry.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: [Waving]. Hi, Adrienne, how are you doing?  
Adrienne.

[Indiscernible]

>> MARI: It is like a smiley face. Okay. Thanks for explaining. Cool. So  
you did -- you asked a question.

>> I don't know what the current state of conversation is.

>> Mari. Okay. I don't understand what the pre-Ks are doing? [Indiscernible]  
what does that cover? It is covering the rest of the year.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Hello, everyone.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Hi Bonnie.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Can I ask people to mute, please. Thank you.

Hi, everyone, I will give a minute to have quorum and we can start the meeting.  
This is Bonnie.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Hi, -- been bon looks like one person for quorum. Have  
you heard from Brian?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I haven't messaged him until Thursday, and I was  
dueling with my mom last week, and we didn't talk much.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Okay.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: But you have Katie, Holly and yourself. Sorry. I  
think that's enough.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I just saw Holly signed on and I think Lian will be on  
momentarily. But we don't have a secretary for the evening. So --

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excuse me, Bonnie, your voice is very quiet  
compared to other people's voices.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Can you hear me now?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Was that Holly?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Sorry, that was me, I didn't identify myself. I'm sorry.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: It is interesting. You are so much louder.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I don't know. We might be equally loud  
[Laughing].

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Depends on the subject and the time.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie, I will try to speak a bit louder

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: . No it is fine I must eat something or my blood sugar is going up

>> BONNIE DENIS: I think we can call the meeting to order. Got it. So I think we -- and Katie, are you up for being secretary this evening? Because otherwise, I think maybe we just have somebody, one of the Assistant Commissioners if they are up for it take notes and I can put things together later?

>> KATIE MILTON: It is hardworking from home and I have to take care of something. Only because no one is home and I miss things

>> BONNIE DENIS: I understand completely

>> KATIE MILTON: In person it would be much easier and I would be alone.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I got it. We'll go off transcripts and I will put together minutes afterwards.

From roll call. Bonnie Denis. Katie Milton.

>> Present.

>> Holly Simione.

>> Present.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Lian Guertin. Lian, we can't hear you. Your voice is really soft, but I believe what you asked for is, is there a separate link for the closed captioning?

Mari, you are free to introduce yourself if you would like.

So moving on to my chairs report. I don't have a lot this evening. We had the variance request that we reviewed a bit back for 114 professor's row, a tuft dormitory, and I received e-mail from the architectural access board, there will be a discussion of that, and administrative hearing on August 22nd, Monday at 2:00 p.m. It is open to the public, so anybody is welcome to attend that, and I plan on attending and speaking against the questions.

They also sent an e-mail that a subpoena implemental variance request submitted on July 15th and discuss on July 25th and approved the requests, and I have not received the request, and have no idea of the content of that request, so that's a little frustrating, given everything we've been going back and forth on receiving questions.

Adrienne, I don't know if you received anything different than what they forwarded? You're muted, Adrienne.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: So sorry. The last thing I received was the updated notice of the hearing. I believe that was at the beginning of August.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes, but the previous one I thought was a Notice of Hearing as well. When I opened it, it wasn't, they said they submitted something on the 18th and discussion on the 25th which they approved.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Was that the amendment?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes. So I don't know what that discussion was because their minutes are a couple of months behind.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Okay. I can follow-up with Bradley and copy you. Would you like me to do that on behalf of this body?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes, that would be great. Thank you. So I think most people here probably received an e-mail earlier today from Adrienne, but I wanted to update everybody that a call for Commissioners has gone out again.

I do not have any more info than what was in the e-mail. To say I'm frustrated it look this long to go out because you know we've been trying to find people for quite some time, and the city didn't have anything further on what would be enough applicants, or what they are see seeking in applicants, so we'll see what happens with that. That's the update I have.

In light of the delay, and how long I have been Chair, I wanted to give everybody heads up, next month, there will be an election for Chair because I no longer have the capacity to serve as Chair after this month, so we'll have an election for Chair in the Commission. That's the extent of my update.

So the next item on the agenda is the approval of minutes from May 10th. I'm going to go in order of Commissioners and Associate Commissioners. Does anybody have corrections to add to those things I see no from Katie. [Indiscernible].

Associate Commissioners? All right. Then can one of my fellow Commissioners motion to approve those minutes?

[Speaking simultaneously]

Go ahead.

>> KATIE MILTON: Ready.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly Simione, and I motion to approve.

>> KATIE MILTON: This is Kate and I second that motion.

>> BONNIE DENIS: All in favor, I.

>> KATIE MILTON: I.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Motion passes unanimously.

We have Holly Simione is going to give an overview of the offerings from Office of Disability. Holly.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Bonnie, would you mind displaying the slides? Or the attachment?

>> BONNIE DENIS: I can try and figure that out. I don't have it open on this computer. Adrienne, is that something you can pull up quickly display? If not, I can figure it out.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly. While Adrienne locates the file and -- excuse me, and shares it on the screen, I will just start in the lessons. We're spending too much time on this. Massachusetts Office of Disability, one of the things they manage is all of the commissions on persons with disabilities are managed and over seen, and they have resources available to us through MOD. Bonnie, can you hear me?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE. Jonathan, can you lower that? We have no power at the moment and have a lot of things going on at once and also why I'm not visible.

So thank you. Thanks, Adrienne. Again, Massachusetts Office on Disability and Jeffrey Dougan is great from the past and been on the role for many, many years and does a great job answering questions and doing this training. I took the training in October and this is the second training.

What he does is he goes through and what a CAM is, a community accessibility officer. That's not what the M stands for.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I think it stands for monitor.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Monitor. Thanks, Bonnie. Basically it enables anyone who has taken this class and the training to be educated to look at accessibility issues. It doesn't mean we're ADA certified or have the authority to write someone up. This is all as a courtesy as a Commission we as a Commission would choose to look at a particular site, do a site visit, record the information, see if it is compliant, work with the city or work with whoever owns this property, to explain what the differences are and find out how to solve them.

It is not a legal process like you are doing this wrong, but let's as a group, look at things and see if they are compliant, or if they fall within the current code.

Adrienne, would you mind advancing through this? Practice okay. So I think we talked about who MOD is, and I'm not going to read these. I know Bonnie put them out with the meeting invitation.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Holly, I encourage you to give a synopsis on what's on the slides.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This slide is talking about MOD, Massachusetts Office on Disability and they serve as a resource to the state, and the general public, they provide information, guidance and training regarding disability-related civil rights, equal access and opportunity.

Go to the next slide.

Thank you. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 6, sections 185 through 189. Establishes MOD -- I have to close this. Now we have power.

And outline its mission, and that part is my favorite. To bring about full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life, in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination.

Further going on to explain how the order, the state order for MOD is being established and that they are designated as the ADA coordinator for the state, and also, they act as the rehab act coordinator for the state.

They make sure that Massachusetts abides by all -- is compliant with all State and Federal laws and the live transcript is blocking it. That protects rights of persons with disabilities.

They do a pretty good job and a fantastic resource for us.

>> HARRIETT: Excuse me. I worked there for five years in the late '80s, I was a client assistant add vocab cat and worked in the rehab section, although I took the basic chem way back 30 years ago. It is true, and their client assistance program, I don't know what it is called now. I am sure it expanded a great deal. Our job was there are two commissions for people with disabilities, education for the blind location edition.

And when people call us up and not getting their share or what they need and deserve, then we as advocates would negotiate that with various levels of rehab commissions and anybody else engaged in that. I wanted to point out, yeah. They do a great job and cover a lot of bases.

I don't know what the policy is now, but when I worked there, there were no screening calls. I learned a lot from being on phones and very difficult states.

That's all. I wanted to share I had direct experience with that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Is sounds like positive experience, not just working there, but getting help from them?

>> HARRIETT: Not really, no. I was so established in my own life for the most part. You know I can't remember to be totally clear about that, yeah.

I sure did enjoy having friends who were having difficulty, having them refer themselves to MOD, you know, to the Massachusetts Office on Disability, yeah.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I know we talk a lot about mass architectural board, about the property and professor's role, and Jeffrey Dougan is a member of that board and sits in that chair, and like I said, he's been in his world for many years.

Let's go a little further. Harriotte, sure. [Background noise].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you. This is a chart talking about the types of buildings in which regulations may apply, and these next few slides, I want to make sure that everyone -- this is accessible to everyone, but at the same time, I want to make sure that the point of why I'm talking about this becomes clear. Would it be okay if I skimmed through some of these and made myself available to full read them to anyone after this meeting that would like to have that?

>> HARRIETT: This is Harriotte and that would be fine. I also know Jeff after about ten minutes was overwhelming.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: These are the training slides. Really what this information is, is how to be -- how to take on this role of working with the city and organization, private owner, and what type of information, where you should get it, and the next slide is good where do you find the information to do this?

The prior slide was, depending on the building, which or acts are applicable. To show you what the worksheet looks like and recommends you follow these steps. Keep going.

What I found interesting, which I don't think we've seen on vans applications, is there's a big piece about when it was renovated, the-how much time is cast, when it was first built. There are all these complex pieces that fall in a place before someone can say it was before it was after. I am not explaining it well. But it is not simply a, well, it costs more than the value of the total. Or it is a percentage piece. Adrienne, Bonnie, I don't know if you want it jump in and you can explain what I'm not explaining.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Sure. This is Bonnie. This is variance request. Basically, there's a dollar amount triggering doing full ADA compliance. And also where you get the renovation and modifying 95 percent of the building. I can be wrong on the number.

Definitely, if you are doing more than a million dollars of work, then it triggers you need to hit full ADA compliance. I believe they looked at past work they have done in the previous 10 years.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Is also looks at the date ranges between Title I and Title II passing, and it also looks at the assessed property filed with the city. A lot of pieces.

I would recommend anyone attending these classes. This is the advanced class, it was a one day class, and its original training I want to say was 212 days, and both extremely valuable.

Let's go through this quickly. This is an outline of based on dates, what rules trigger. A flowchart. Keep going.

Go to the next slide. Thank you.

Again, a list of all of the different regulations, AAB, Title II, existing Title II, new construction, Title III existing, 2010 standards. Let's keep going.

I think if I had the largest whiteboard in the world, I would still be confused by the entities, dates, and what regulations are applied. So this, again, is trying to make that easier to understand.

Let's keep going.

Here's my favorite slide. The ADA Act says, they must provide a accessible path to the functional area, to a accessible toilet room, phone, and drinking fountain serving primary function area. That's a hard stop. The accessible path that's to be there. It has to be there when it is touched, and if broken, it has to be repaired. If it is blocked by something, it has to be moved.

It has nothing to do with any other law.

Let's keep going.

These are the years in which the building code as changed. Let's move forward. Keep going. These are slides that are very detailed as far as dates and triggers and values. I am going to keep going here.

It talks about when a tenant makes alterations, there's a big one of this slide is about AAB, and this talks about curb cuts.

This is about MAAB. Let's keep going, Adrienne. I feel like I'm -- yeah. Maintenance and account ago feature. I find it interesting.

A slide with a person falling down the stairs. And all I could think about it is the super dangerous stair across from a assembly, going up here ten hills and how we've been trying to get that repaired.

Let's keep going.

This talks about historical buildings. Keep going.

Temporary structures. Keep going.

Actually, if you can just slowly go through these, Adrienne, and I will let you know when we should stop.

It is giving examples. I will keep going through, this building was this, what would you do and what laws would you use? Sort of like ad hoc quizzes.



Let's see of the let's keep going through these. I think the most important point of me asking to discuss this, is that it should be shared. It should be shared to all residents. It should be something that we have on our webpage, but it should be listed in an area of this is -- it should be listed in a way that's available, but -- I guess we need to talk about where the conduit to it. If it is something we share because it is a public document and want people to be educated. It is something we say, if you have questions about this, please contact blah, blah, blah.

I thought that there's so much meet in this, and also in the first training, not only should the commissions have access to it, but I feel like residents in our community should also be able to see this.

That's all I had about this piece. I guess we have some more. Let's see, this goes back to the survey. What should you be looking at? Natural, after this class finished, each person who participated, their city or town will be able to schedule an in-person site visit with Jeff, where they will go through a particular area in great detail, go through all of the steps of the survey, and work with us to understand how the lives in the area, and if there are things that need to be modified and how to move forward.

We will definitely take him up on it when we find a good time. What else?

Slopes. It is all about the slopes. Keep going.

Parking, yep. Broken sidewalks, those are tough, too. Let's keep going, Adrienne.

The other thing that they produced, which I will get a hand on so we can share that, is guidance for outdoor dining.

So I think we probably have everything we need from this. Could you just go to the end of the slides and see if there's something I should call upon?

So there's a lot of visual items in these. Diagrams with measurements and signage and examples of great design and examples of less than great design.

And it goes from retail. Here is the outdoor dining pieces, what's considered a barrier.

I think part of it is not only -- a lot of people don't even know what's considered a barrier. In a lot of cases we have become numb to it and almost accepted those things are there, and we have to find a way around it.

I found in this training, there are actually things that I didn't even realize were barriers. What else do we have, Adrienne? I think we should be at the end.

An example of our last slide, a sample post site visit report and follow-up. Going throughout the different areas.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excuse me, Holly, this is Harriotte. What are some of the things you thought was a barrier you had to deal request. Something in your mind, anyway.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Being without lights and air conditioning for three and a half hours, I'm not sure

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I can provide a quick slide.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Please do

>> BONNIE DENIS: Most people see the bathroom stall. Most people say great. --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Can we go back to that slide?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Not too high, not too low. For people who can see this. It is at the bottom right, showing grab bars both beside and behind the toilet, but then it shows a partnership dispenser right underneath the grab bar. It is hard to tell from the picture that it is compliant.

But as someone who uses the stall, putting it there, it's almost so close you can't wrap your hand around the grab bar, it is a barrier. A lot of people use it to get on and off the toilet.

The thing I see more often are trash receptacles that are mounted there, and invariably, they are too close to use the grab bar, or you can't open them fully because the grab bar stops the top from opening.

[Laughing]

And it seems like a little thing, but it is in the in the picture here. But a really common Juan in restrooms, the soap dispensers are put too high to comfortably reach from the wheelchair.

I'm a person who has a lot of core strength and I do [Indiscernible] for a hobby, and I can do it. If someone is limited in range of motion, somebody short in stature, it will often be very difficult to reach the soap dispensers.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: We even brute it to the institute 20 years ago, and the environments. The fact that if you put the paper towel dispenser opposite from the sinks or a distance from the sinks, if a person has Canadian crutches and have problem with their hand, they are supposed to be able to navigate the towel. So putting the dispenser at the right height. That's very variable.

[Speaking simultaneously]

>> BONNIE DENIS: Popped up?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian, and someone thing that popped up before, a patch of grass, and a good reminder that a barrier is not necessarily a barrier in the way, but the lack of something can be a barrier. And the obvious, there's nothing there, it is not a barrier. But that is itself, a bare.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you for these in general.

What other questions? As far as training and services with can get from MOD, and also started to get some already.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I have a question, Holly. This is Harriotte. How often do they offer the community access monitoring training 1234

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I am not sure, but what I will do is get that information over to Bonnie, or Adrienne, or both of you, so that you will all have that link. It is on their website. I don't believe it is super easy to find.

It is basically, if you were to send an e-mail to Jeffrey Dougan, antimicrobial Ashley Santana. And send those out and say you want to know about the CAM training. It is remote on Zoom, and they send all of the documents ahead of time

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I'm thinking even on the website, we could at least get a better definition or link to the slides, if you thought it was appropriate.

Even those trainings listed would be interesting. I see Henri has a question. Henry, do you want to ask your question?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I do. Chair Denis?

>> BONNIE DENIS: I would rather have Holly take the questions directly.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I just briefly wanted to comment, it seems like a great idea for everyone, every resident to have access to this, which was something that you mentioned.

I would like to say we have money and resources, let's make that happen. What would you suggest as a practical steps to make that happen.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: As far as having access to these documents?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Mailing them or how would we accomplish that?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Personally, I think we need to have a communications plan, something saying these are the things we're going to be doing, which is we're going to have the following things on our website. Maybe somebody is going to decide they would like too --

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I think it is fine to talk about specifics of these documents, but communication planning we want to hold until later continued business.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Sure.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Talking about the funds.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: The last piece is I would recommend we offer to host a CAM meeting. Which basically means we provide the Zoom link and invisible donuts and we pretty much -- there's really no financial commitment, from what I understand. Maybe a core meeting requirement.

I feel like there were at least 10, maybe 15 people on these trainings. So I think people of the Commission, people who work in key departments within the city, I think that if we hosted our own, it would serve well. I think that's the last piece on the agenda. Yes. Posting it online. Propose grant committee.

Is that a later item, Bonnie?

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Yes. Oh. No. I think we did include that in on the Sid so.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's right. That's what Doug talked about in the training.

One thing that he talks about is as commissions accept the handicap parking fines into their account, so we can manage them and use them for the purpose of advancing the lives of those with disabilities, one what you to increase the is to either consider deputizing individuals, or hiring someone, like a third party, like a security company that's trained in this.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie, and I think that's a separate thing than a grant committee?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Maybe I'm confused by the agenda item.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I'm not certain, that's a mistake on my part. Sorry.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's okay. We'll save those for the afternoon.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you so much. In terms of getting this out, the city has a communications team and they put out letters all of the time with things, so I think it would be great to put together a training and use this already existing to put it out into the community.

I will say that there have been some advocates, particularly from key tact and Somerville alliance for safe streets and evaluating things like outdoor dining. And if you are interested, I think putting it up on the Commission's page as a resource is get as well, and I think we can talk about in the accessibility parking expenditures we would want to do any paper mailings as well or something like video communications, SCTV, some great ways to do better. Thank you so much, Holly.

Next, we have Adrienne and we are getting an update what she's working on within the city.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: This certainly will not take 20 minutes because I know you all want to spend the majority of time on parking funds.

The first thing I want to talk about, that I didn't even realize. I think some of you are aware, hopefully Bonnie is at least aware. I'm part of the pros of when a resident needs to request a reasonable parking space in front of their home.

Generally, these are residents who already have a residential parking permit because accessibility needs, they want an accessible parking lot. And essentially, we have to turn over a residential spot and make a parking spot.

And I have all of the recommendations through the traffic division, and a really great group people. They meet, I think it is the second Thursday of the month.

With that said, I noticed in the language of the application, we were still using the word "Handicap." I'm in discussions with the parking department to change handicap to accessible and trying to start from the top DocuSign using the word accessible and not the antiquated term handicap.

I'm in the process and hopefully by the next meeting that will be good to go. In related news -- yes, Bonnie?

>> BONNIE DENIS: I love to see that. There's a bigger issue and it is been changed. We asked when Nancy Sullivan was on about two years ago. The application has to sign away the rights for their doctor to provide medical records, and you know is redundant because to get one of these places you have to show accessible placard or plate for your car, meaning you have gone through the process of sharing records directly and the city doesn't need that.

I would like to see that language removed from the captions and it is pretty invasive, and there's zero reason for the city to have that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: . It is also requesting a spot and not saying that spot is online for that person. That spot is near where that person lives, but when and if it were to be approved, that spot becomes for anyone who needs to use it who has a placard or license plate.

So the fact that requesting a spot and wanting to see your medical records, I agree, Bonnie, it seems a little -- it seems excessive, yes.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I appreciate that feedback and I will include that in my ongoing discussions with parking and thank you for that additional feedback. Thank you.

Relatively, as I -- some of you may know, we have the ADA complaint form, either for discrimination or a physical barrier that lives on Somerville website and this is one way for anybody having grievances of ADA things.

Actually during my interview and process ongoing, white, not a diverse community and English is not the only language, and I'm working with [Indiscernible] getting the forms updated, and people who do not speak English and need to utilize those forms can do that as well.

A couple of things concerning translation and working with Dan Moore to get those uploaded and accurate and functioning as well. Yes, Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Sorry. I can't tell if I am unmuted. Can people hear necessity?

>> Yes.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: That brings up, is there any information on Somerville or -- that can be placed on our websites that explains what the regulations are and what people's rights are in another language other than Gibber?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I'm not sure I understand the question. Can you clarify?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Just in terms of, it is great to have the forms in other languages, and are with making it so that people who don't use English or don't use English very well have an easy way to know what they actually can complain about?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I understand what you are saying, yeah. That's why this is a process, so it is not just as getting the form, translating and putting it back on the website. There's north component to that disseminating information in those languages, and this is available to you should you need it and this is what it means, et cetera.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: I wanted to make sure that was part of the process as well. Thank you:

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Really that's my update and as always, you have my contact information and how to utilize that if anything comes out between now and September's meeting.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I want to be sure other people can ask questions, but I definitely have a couple of my own. Fellow Commissioners? I see Henry.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Just briefly. Adrienne, I appreciate all that you are doing, and thank you for that.

I'm disturbed by the e-mail that went out inviting new applications for the Commission. Could we talk about that? Could you reach out to me and could we have a sidebar conversation so I can get a better understanding of how I can contribute?

I have been invited by Nancy Salamone to participate in this Commission, and become a Commissioner a year ago February, so I am not finding it to be a very equitable or state law-compliant process. Thank you.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Thank you, Henry. I am happy to set up some time with you outside of this.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Thank you.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: You're welcome.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Anybody else?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly. I have a question about the application for parking spaces. I just Googled what I thought would bring me the right forth. I am looking at handicap park space permit application.

Is that one that's traditionally place? It looks like it is. Does the property have a driveway, what's the width, are you tenant?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Yeah. This aims to put a stove, if not right in front of the person's access point to their residence as close as possible and often it is the case, we're able to do that.

Question about driveway access and things, just additional point of access into the home. Also, if somebody is a renter, we have to clarify that their landlord is not allowing them to part in their brief way, which happens a lot here in the Somerville area.

With that said, all of the spots at least I have approved within the tenure of the city has been right in front of the front door of the resident in order to have more of an access point to their vocal and to their home.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: What if someone doesn't have a placard?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: That's the qualifying thing. It can be a placard or --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It says placard and almost assumes the person parking there is not a kind person and someone driving their car, and that means someone in the car --

>> BONNIE DENIS: I think it is placard or plate. I have a placard because sometimes I am driving my own car or someone else's.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: All of the applications I have processed have both.

>> BONNIE DENIS: You can't have both, legally.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: One or the other. They have other, yeah.

The piece about the driveway and not being allowed to park there, it might also be the case that there particular vehicle can't open up in the driveway, if it is a side or rear entry.

I'm looking at the question that says, you know, you are checking with the landlord and making sure that they are really not giving them a space, and maybe the question is, is it is it accessible for them? Because we couldn't get our van in our driveway. We had to get a different type of van, even though we had a driveway. I guess it's like, instead of saying handicapped, we say disabled.

The piece about the health professional, I agree with what you said earlier, and does your disability impair your mobility? What does that have to do with the parking piece?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Holly, I don't have an answer for you. I will essentially take that back to the parking thing.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: All right. Maybe I can be included in that discussion and no back and forth. Jamie has a question, too.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Am I good? This is Jamie. I am a little confused about the context of this conversation? I don't really understand why we're talking about these two particular things.

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Jamie, I asked my Chair, Denis, to report on things I'm working on so I am reporting on them

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: So these are the two projects that have your attention right now?

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: Lots of things have my attention. I work 60 to 80 hours a week on things. So these are things that are in process and have a deliverable that's coming, so those are the things I report on.

Traditionally, I actually had a report at the top of this meeting, and somehow that's gone away and being replaced by specific asks, that's fine. So that's what I am doing.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I do want to give context and address what you just said, but I want to make sure Henry doesn't feel cut off. Henry, do you mind if I address this or do you want to go first?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: I yield to the Chair.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you. The context of this, yeah. We had it on the agenda every month, and historically there's not been much on it. And the Commissioner asked for a pretty detailed about a lot of specifics and I put it on the agenda from July. I will read it so people understand. We requested an update on accessibility related projects that you are working on in the city and the types and amounts of access and ADA complaints received.

I was told that you did not have time to prepare on short notice and you preferred to be pushed to this month. I gave you a larger block of time to be able to address this. It was an extensive list and City Council, we have been clear for some time, we want to know what's going on in the city.

I have found out about multiple access-related things that the Commission was not aware of, and we're trying to establish that we want to be actually involved. Commissions and disability were not created to be by feel good as much as the admission puts it out that way. We are creative in the city and asking for what's going on in the city? I want to know how many accessible dining complaints there have been, and what role there has been. In terms ever resolutions and terms of permits.

I know there's a rather large study happening for free down the road of \$150 million that is accessible. And it is the same as part of the ADA transition plan. I have been told it is on your agenda to update. I haven't seen a timeline on that, and we're all looking for a substantial update for this.



>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I would like to remind you all you are not -- if your intent was to push me in a corner and ask me questions, that's highly disrespectful and not tolerated chair Denis. I highly encourage you because it is not 7:30, to continue on with your discussion for enabling account parking funds because that's something this Commission has to report back on to make those purchases. It stops now. I will not be treated like this. You gave me less than 48 hours' notice.

>> BONNIE DENIS: You are correct. It was less than 48 hours' notice and you respectfully moved it a month later. To be fair, we're not asking you to report from a supervisor perspective. Our understanding is ADA is something someone is working with the Commission and respecting that part of the city. If that's not your understanding, it is great to know that. I am unsure you would choose to be our liaison if you are not interested in sharing information for us.

This is all public information. I think it is disrespectful to this Commission we had to file repeated public information request, to get documents relate to the city. That shouldn't be the relationship between the Commission and ADA coordinator, we should be a teamworking with the city.

I'm a little unsure you are taking this as antagonism rather than trying to find out what's going on.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Am I unmuted?

>> BONNIE DENIS: You are, but I'm going to let Henry go before you since he had a question prior, and I will call on you again. Henry?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Thank you, Chair Denis. Henry Edward Hardy. Adrienne, I have learned to take people as they present themselves, and I perceive you as being a good person, and I hear that you are not answering to this Commission. You are answering to the Mary and to her hierarchy, and you don't have a choice about that, and I get that.

When I said thank you for all that you do, I really mean that. I do. I share the concerns that Chair Denis has complained, and I don't want to see a conflict, or anyone feeling disrespected. If you are feeling disrespected, I apologize for that. Because I do respect you and I think you are a good person.

The issue here is democracy. It is a bottoms up process by which the populous is the ruling body. They are not at the bottom; they are at the top.

That's why the state has provided for these semi-independent commissions. Like the disabled commissions. For that to work, the democratic process has to be able to work.

I don't see that happening here, and I don't see clarity. And to me, it feels like obstruction, and it feels like a passive-aggressive kind of behavior.

I get that you are caught in the middle of it, and I don't have any persona animosity towards you. I like you and I want it work with you, and I will have this conversation and try and get better informed, but please don't lash out at Chair Denis

because she's such a good person, and such a caring and intelligent, thoughtful, respectful person and has done so much for us. And please, Adrienne, please, don't internalize this that people are disrespecting you because you are not

>> ADRIANNE POMEROY: I don't see it that way. I will stop you. I don't see it that way. I have not seen it that way because I don't have conversations with your Chair, and she turns around and tells other people things that are not true. I will not talk for the rest of the meeting. I will stay muted and I will turn my camera off and you can continue the decision. I'm not going to do that.

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Thank you for your response, and I'm going to yield the rest of my time. I don't really know to go with this, and I'm distressed and concerned. Thank you.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Henry. Harriotte?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I was online wondering if any of us, Adrienne included, have insights into who receives the -- any of the filed complaints or concerns about access. Because it must be more than one person or --

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. The way official complaints are currently set up and form going to the coordinator of the city, which is Adrienne. If people file complaints to 311. They are to be forwarded to Adrienne as well.

Whether or not that happens is unclear because there's no ADA access button on 311. It is humans reading and deciding whether or not it is the right form and then they forward it. This is something we tried to fix and it is one person possibly for the complaints.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I have one other thing. This is Harriotte. May I ask another question?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So what I'm wondering about, in the prior admission, has there ever been an access to seeing or at least having any sense of where complaints stand or what's going on? I realize I'm novice to the Commission, really. I don't know much at all. I am just trying to figure out how things move forward.

For example, if a sidewalk is broken, I call PDW, and they come and fix it. Or for example, I found a light at the corner of my house, I was getting out of the car with a friend and I put my hand on the utility pole and fire pole, and it moved about a foot in each direction. That's not a permanent business, but for that kind of thing. That's all.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. So yeah, I know in the past, the Commission has been involved in some of this, and they were involved in doing a detailed assessment in the walks in the city and the issue there in terms of access, but for quite some time, the Commission has been deprioritized and not as involved.

I have asked, and I know Holly has asked, and other people asked for updates and we have not received anything. That's part of the ADA transition plan, the sidewalk network and also part of engineering surveyor, and what they did was identify

everything about a decade ago that needed work and it is a constantly shifting target for its priority each year, and the Commission has not been included in those discussions.

And where things stand is kind of difficult to figure out. I think that's what we were hoping to try and do with some of the discussion this evening, figuring out where we are and making progress with some of those things and being more aware.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you. That's what I thought this was about. I wonder if anyone works together. But you, Adrienne as far as the Mary's office, and that would be helpful to us. Thank you.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Harriotte. Were there any other questions? Next item on the agenda is discussing accessible parking funds expenditure. This is something we have been talking about for a while, and I know that there's quite a list of things we could spend money on, and I'm hoping we can narrow down on what people think they can move quickly on.

I know that Janine was working on talking with representative Julia from [Indiscernible]? Jamie, I'm sorry. I don't mean to put you on the spot, but if you want to share, you are welcome to.

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: Yeah, this is Jamie. Basically I reached out to Julia, getting a conversation started. Basically asking, okay. Help us find what we need for a year.

What are the organizations or people that coordinate out of school time programs in the city. So that we can reach it out them and see if we can help get their staff training, either if there's -- the easiest thing, the lowest hanging fruit is that this particular training one of the programs would love to send their staff to, but not feasible in the budge. We can provide that funding.

A little bit less low hanging fruit would be good they need help figuring out like, what the training would be to -- this is all in reference to the presentation about the -- I'm talking about training, I mean training to work with students with disabilities in various ways.

I think we do have some knowledge and connections among the Commissioners that we could potentially be involved in putting something together that these programs could send their staff to if needed. Yeah. I got the conversation started, and I have a short spreadsheet with just a couple of names of people to contact that I have been sent in response.

I haven't been able to further follow-up on that, so if anybody has band width and decided to keep the ball rolling, I am happy to give you the e-mail we have so far, dial you in, and otherwise, I will try and make progress on that when I'm able to.

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Jamie. I see Harriotte's hand.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is Harriotte. I also thought you Jamie, Holly and I were going to also possibly have a meet to go sit together and work on me finding

a list of things we might want to 'put our monies to. I am not sure if that's right, but that's the way I interpreted some of the notes and stuff.

I am very happy to do that with you both, or singly, to work on making our priority list, where we would like to make a contribution and make things different.

I am looking for an echo or reflection as to whether I [Indiscernible].

>> JAMIE PERCONTI: This is Jamie. With the Chair's permission, I have contextualized where we are.

So a few months ago while working on the statements to submit to City Council ill that was requested, and you know, that was a process trying to figure out exactly what that needed to be. So there was a point in that process, where we were going to form a subcommittee to basically refine that document, and work on that, and it ended up basically, being mute because in the first place, that's done now, and we've submitted that. The final version of that document did not actually need to be as detailed as we were thinking when we decided to format a subcommittee.

And secondly, I think there was some procedural confusion about what, exactly -- how forming a subcommittee works and how the meetings of that subcommittee be worked. And I still don't have a clear understanding how to pragmatic I will get things done in a formal way. Henry put his hand up, so maybe Henry understands this. That's basically my understanding of what that was.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Jamie. Henry? Henry, do you have commentary on that?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Sorry, I didn't have my mic on. This is Henry Hardy. I don't have an understanding, but I'm happy to work with you, please, feel free to reach out.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you. Did you -- okay. Great. So something that I have seen in the community and I have spoken with people about some of the alliance for Taft. Started recently a biking program and really keen to start one in Somerville as well.

I have been talking with them a little bit about that. I think it would be great, although there are particular challenges with those, Oz a- pods to active places who have done this.

Everyone that's done it has a dedicated place and like this town of -- the City of Portland, Oregon works with a bike shop to store adaptive bikes and fit people for them.

Similarly, in Akron, they have a dedicated space near a trail, so people are able to go and able to take bikes out for a few hours. I think that would be a great long-term goal for some of us, but in the short term, I don't think we could easily identify space and people to do that.

So I reached out to a local nonprofit to figure out whether it would be possible to do sort of a one day thing, people could sign up ahead and get fit for a bike and take it out for the afternoon. If that's something people would like to further, I can figure out the cost to that. Lean an.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is a comment and question related to that. I was thinking that in terms of what would be easiest to get off the ground quickly. It would probably be things before there's an existing organization running programming that we could use our funds to get them to come in to run their programs for Somerville.

I know Wake Point Adventure is one I can think of off the top of my head, going along with what Bonnie said. And procedural, do we want to track down specifics and come back next month and vote on them. So say these are the things I want to do and vote on it ahead of time so people can start the ball rolling and actually work out recommendations for training stuff to be able to start that process without having to be like, we want to do this. We'll get back to you in a month after we have a meeting.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Lian. Well, I think that's a great question. Yes. Wake Point Adventure is the organization that Spaulding adaptive has a pretty robust type of program, and I think the thing about this would be who do we think is most likely to use them, and I think it requires more outreach because there's a difference of Wake Point Adventure primarily has tandem bikes and foot powered bikes, which are great for people who maybe doesn't have the power to peddle a bike themselves for a distance, or people who are blind and need someone to visually guide them.

But not so great for somebody with an mobility impairment and needs a hand cycle. One point does have a hand psyche many. But [Indiscernible] has quite a different array of adaptive bikes and a lot of physical therapists who are working on that program ever -- not every week, but every couple of weeks fitting a lot of people to the bikes and they can do that quickly.

There are options. Henry?

>> HENRY EDWARD HARDY: Just a personal note. Are there tricycles because they told me I have to tricycle my stroke?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Yes. This is Bonnie. I am not sure if they have tricks, but Spaulding definitely has spikes. That's what the bulk of what they use. Many people using adaptive bikes need that extra stability, so -- yeah. Harriotte?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is Spaulding an agency, a group we could work with?

>> BONNIE DENIS: This is Bonnie. I don't see why not.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah. I guess I was trying to understand. The Acton program works cooperatively with a bike shop --

>> BONNIE DENIS: The program in Portland, Oregon works for the bike shop. Acton has managed to do themselves in town with your rehabilitation department.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

>> BONNIE DENIS: I have not been to the director aid building, but I do believe it is not accessible and I'm not sure what it is in terms of storage, so I doesn't think that would be a good solution for Somerville, but it is something long term would be good to discuss with them. I think they are also based out of phosphorus park, not next to any bike trails.

I think a great location would be assembly. There are bike trails over there, and it might be hard to hard scale. Maybe there is something to be put in. There's a park, the name I will forget, starting to reason vision process that's going to be next to the community park --

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You mean Lole Street?

>> BONNIE DENIS: Um-hum maybe there are options. We do need space, bikes, people there to fit people to sign them out. So it is kind of a big project to do as a permanent thing. Whereas, it might not be as big of a thing to do a couple of one-offs and we can keep it going and what the desire is for it and if it is working towards a more permanent program.

I want to go back to Lian's question. How do we want to handle this in terms of voting. I think we have five more minutes, and I know that it delays things, but I think there's enough work that people can go on their own and people can start gathering information with, and we should plan to think about this, and come back next month with things we want to vote on.

So I want people to think about, you know, do we want to aim for spending money on after school and -- I think, you know, it's a little late from this summer, but after school programs is something that will continue throughout the year.

Do you want to focus on adaptive recreation? I think Holly, do you want to talk about what you were saying earlier about bring in more funds? That's another thing we can discuss whether we want to spend money on?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Sure. Thanks Chair Denis.

I have woven in at the wrong time, I apologize. It was something that I learned from Jeff at MOD, that he talked about in the first CAM training, was that many commissions, like hours, take some of their funds and they have two ways to strengthen the violations being kept on top of. Basically, they either hire a third party security company, who is trained and able to simply write parking tickets to give fines.

They go out and they know they shouldn't be parked here, shouldn't be on the curb, shouldn't be blocking this. all of the things that are HP violations and to that end, it increases the pot, but also increasing people's understanding of where they shouldn't be parking.

The other way, you can deputize -- I think they said it was members effort Commission, or deputize individuals [Sneezing] deputize individuals for writing those

tickets. I think it's like taking a picture of the situation and license. They both are done in a very specific way.

It was part of that training to understand, you know, these are the funds that you can get. Some commissions have greatly increased their funding and can then turn around and use to help people in their municipality. That's one thing that I think would be interesting for us to discuss.

Do people feel strongly about one or the other? And looking at how much it would cost. He had quoted, you know, let's say they spent \$10,000 and got back \$60,000. It was a significant difference. Not that I am promising any of those numbers, but I thought it would be something useful. Maybe because every piece we get goes right back out to someone with needs in our community.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Holly. Lian?

>> LIAN GUERTIN: This is Lian. I think my thoughts on that are as a medium turn thing --

>> Hold on.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Can you hear me?

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Um-hum, yeah.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: Am I still holding on? Yeah. I think as a medium turn thing, that's something to consider.

I think that it is optics. I don't think it would be the very first thing we do because well, it would still have the benefit of the, you know, the actual, like, making sure the parking spots are available for people who need them. It looks like we're doing this to get more money thing, and if that's what people see before we are obviously have things to point to. These are how we're using the money and I think that has the potential to backfire.

I don't they we should do that now, but definitely keep it in mind once we have a couple of things up and running and revisiting it.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, Lian. We're just about at time. So as I said, I think that people should come back next month, with more info and we should vote on some of these ideas, and if there's an idea somebody is enthusiastic about. And we don't have time to get into it. But Holly mentioned a communications plan, and Henry also mentioned that previously trying said use to the median public information that's something that is good to look at and something to vote on.

We can try and approve some things we want to dig into next month. And I'm going to motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor? I from Bonnie.

>> KATIE MILTON: I from Katie.

>> LIAN GUERTIN: I from Lian.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I from Holly.

>> BONNIE DENIS: Thank you, everyone and I will see you next month.

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