

CITY OF SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
165 Broadway •Somerville, MA 02145

Held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday January 10th, 2023 7-9pm

AGENDA

1. Attendance

Holly Simione, Commission Chairperson
Liam Guertin, Commission Member
Katie Milton, Commission Member
Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA coordinator
Henry Edward Hardy

Harriotte Ranvig
Pauline Downing
Crystal Hutt
Captioner Britany

2. Assistive Technology Student Challenge project

Marnie Klein spoke with the Commission. Ms. Klien is a middle school science teacher at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School. This spring she is running a science program that focus on assistive technology. She is looking for community members who have an idea for a technology project custom to them. Something gear

Community participant commitment: a Zoom call and visiting the school campus 2-3 times.

Hariottte Ranvig mentioned a similar high school project she participated it with Universal design in 2019. She is going to try to think of suitable project for middle school student and will share with a friend.

3. ADA Coordinator Report Adrienne Pomeroy

- The Department of Racial and Social Justice would like the Commission to establish at least 3 goals for the year.
- Adrienne would like the SCPD to plan and organize a couple outreach efforts around the ADA Community Survey
- Adrienne emailed Edward Bean, Director of Finance and Holly to let him know that the SCPD had voted to allot \$50,000 to the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation.

4. Chair's Report Holly Simione

5. Mobility Team Update postponed to February 2023

6. Continued Business - Accessible Parking Fines Fund

The Commission has \$190,689 from City's Accessible Parking Fines Fund.

Scholarships to support students with disabilities.

Commissioners and members of the public who attend the SCPD meeting support using someone of the money to the award scholarships to students

- with disabilities, and/or
- to students who are looking to make a positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities

Holly connected with the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation.

- SHCCF is a 501(c)(3) organization.
- It is separate entity from the high school but they work together to award scholarships to graduating seniors.
- David Thorpe is the president.
- SHCCF has a "common application" used by SHCCF to connected students with scholarship opportunity The foundation uses the applicant to "match" student and scholarship opportunities.
- Has a committee that reviews the applications. The committee has help screen applicants who fit the criteria the commission sets up. The Commission can receive applications that have been prescreened by the foundation.

Liam Guertin comments

- Prefers the Commission fund students that have a disability rather than students looking to go into nursing.
- They believe we can ask questions disabilities because the scholarship is specifically to fund persons with disabilities
- Asked David if the Commission can add specific questions to the common application to help screen potential applicants and target students with disabilities.
 - David said we can add questions but not to this year's applications because they are already in use.
- Who makes the final decisions of who gets the scholarships
 - David said a committee of the foundation or the Commission can chose to make the decision themselves.

Henry Edward Hardy comments

- Would like for use to consider the financial needs of students we might fund. Concerned about students who do not need financial assistance receiving funds.
- Wanted to if the Foundation follows up with students to see if they actually what they are going to do in their essay? If they say they are going to be a health care profession to help persons with disabilities, do we check on them?
 - David says the Foundation does not do follow up. It would be overburdensome.

Vote

- 1 Liam MAKES A MOTION to vote on the Commission using money from the Accessible Parking Fines Fund to fund scholarships for the high school students through Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation

Katie SECONDS THE MOTION

IN FAVOR Katie, Liam, Holly

AGAINST - NONE

Motion PASSES!

- 2 Liam MAKES A 2nd MOTION to vote procuring \$50,000 from our parking fines funds to be send to the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation for 2022-2023

Katie SECONDS THE MOTION

IN FAVOR – Holly, Katie, Liam

AGAINST - NONE

Motion PASSES!

Scholarship Subcommittee formed

- Holly Simione, Liam Guertin, Harriotte Ranvig
- Next steps
 - Adrienne sent info to Edward Bean, Director of Finance
 - When we hear back, Holly will reach of to subcommittee members

*****Special thanks to Mr. Bean in the finance department for all the help! *****

7. New Business

By-Laws

Chair Holly Simione started a discussion about the Commission's bylaws and starting a review.

- By-laws were last officially edited in 2013. All we have is a scanned copy.
 - Crystal Hutt created a word document of the scanned 2013 bylaws. She shared to the document to be used by the Commission.
- Over the past year, this Commission approved by vote the following changes to the bylaws and requests again that the 2013 bylaws reflect the approved changes.

1. **Residency Requirement** Commissioners must be residents of Somerville at the beginning of their term but, any commissioner who moves out of Somerville during their term will be allowed to finish out their term.
 2. **Quorum** Attendance of 1/2 plus 1 current members is required to meet quorum, utilizing the “simple quorum” formula.
- Holly brought up information about other local disability commission’s bylaws.
 - Other things that came up
 1. The bylaws of the Commission are kept with the City Clerk
 2. Crystal Hutt shared a copy of the transcribed copy of the 2013-word document.
 3. The purpose of bylaws is to establish principles and procedures for governance of the Commission.
 4. **Someone** is going to work to get the bylaws as we have into the formats members and guests can review for future discussion.

Holly and Hariotte formed a subcommittee to review the Commission’s current bylaws and the bylaw of the disability commissions of Boston and Cambridge to make recommendations.

The Bylaws will be added to the agenda for the February 2023 meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:03pm

DRAFT