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Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities

April 11, 2023

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (ET)

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9:14 PM (ET)

CAPTIONER: Standing by for audio/video link.

You can communicate with me via the chat ==>>

[Captioner standing by]

>>: Hi Frank, hi, Harriotte.

>>: Say hello.

I just unmuted.

>>: Hi there.

FRANK LEE: Hi, Pauline.

PAULINE DOWNING: Hello.

Welcome.

[Pause]

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I heard from Deborah that she'll be here.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Here's Deborah.

Harriotte and Frank, I don't know if Holly was able to communicate with you or not.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: She did communicate with us, yeah, she did.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Okay, there just need to be a practice of a vote or a motion to put a temporary chair in place at the top of the meeting.

And then everything can go forward.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

You're the presiding person at this point, I guess.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Technically, no.

I'll just get things started and then I will just guide one of you to make a motion for that motion.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

But I think we are waiting on --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Katy O'Brien, maybe?

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Brian is here, our guest speaker is here, and I believe Katy was coming.

I don't know.

I guess I will just tell the group now before we get started, Lian sent an email to Holly and myself yesterday morning and they are going to go ahead as of yesterday step down from the Commission.

So they are not going to finish out their term, which would have ended at the end of December.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I see.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: And the email was really positive about their experience and they wished us -- wished all of you luck, but felt like the commission was in a good place with the three new commissioners and then the future ones that will be appointed.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you so much for bringing this communication.

Thank you.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

And I did tell Holly the next call for commissioners for openings for two was in the process and so I was able to pause it and now they're adding that it will be three openings instead of two.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, fantastic.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: So I let everybody know.

FRANK LEE: And how many are we supposed to have, anyway?

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Total of nine, so once the three seats when this new call goes out are filled, then you will be at nine.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yep, that's right.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: So you're at six right now.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excellent.

Well, I'm glad the three new of us, that's good.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: And then I again don't know if Holly got the communication to everybody, but Holly will not be here this evening.

So as soon as we officially get started, one of you will have to make a motion to put a temporary chair in place for the evening.

And you do have quorum.

So.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I am prepared to be temporary Chair tonight, if someone wants to make a motion.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Okay.

Well, as your staff liaison, it looks like everybody is present, so.

PAULINE DOWNING: This is Pauline.

I would like to make a motion that we appoint Harriotte temporary Chair for this evening's meeting.

KATHARINE MILTON: I second that motion.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

KATHARINE MILTON: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Wish I could vote for myself.

[Laughter]

PAULINE DOWNING: Why not.

KATHARINE MILTON: Harriotte, I like your wall.

FRANK LEE: Oh, the wall, the way that it's painted.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That's a nice -- that's a nice addition of our housemate some years back, and we decided we liked it.

KATHARINE MILTON: It's very cool.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So, we shall begin and Frank has agreed to be my assistant as associate commissioner, and so we'll go through the usual.

Welcome, everyone.

And introductions and I have a request, as best we can manage it to say one's name before speaking.

And also to use as few acronyms as possible.

So I'm Harriotte.

PAULINE DOWNING: Thank you.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: My pronouns are she and her and hers.

Okay, roll call.

So Pauline Downing.

PAULINE DOWNING: Here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Deborah Haber.

DEBORAH HABER: Here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Brian Postlewaite.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And Kate, is Kate here?

KATHARINE MILTON: Yep, I'm right here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, great.

Welcome.

And we have our --

FRANK LEE: Frank is here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Frank Lee, are you here?

FRANK LEE: Yeah, I'm here.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And Greg, you're our speaker for tonight.

Have I missed anybody?

FRANK LEE: There's a captioner Jamie.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Jamie captioning.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: We do have our captioner Jamie if people need that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Would someone need to turn the captioning on?

FRANK LEE: It is on, actually.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All right.

So we've got roll call.

Welcome.

Introduction?

I think we should do introduction dollars.

Would you like to start off, Greg and introduce yourself?

>>: I'm Greg Hanafin, and thank you for having me today.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Brian, would you like to introduce yourself?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I'm Brian Postlewaite, director of engineer and I am the administration's representative on this commission and I am also serving as the secretary for the commission.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Adrienne, we know who you are but introduce yourself anyway, please.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Thank you.

Thank you, Harriotte, through the Chair.

I'm Adrienne Pomeroy, I serve the City of Somerville as the ADA coordinator and then I am also the staff liaison to the Somerville Commission for persons with disabilities.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Deborah, would you introduce yourself please?

DEBORAH HABER: Deborah Haber, I'm just a resident commissioner and my pronouns are she and they.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Help me out here.

KATHARINE MILTON: I'm Katie Milton and I'm also a commissioner.

She/her.

FRANK LEE: And then Pauline.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Pauline, introduce yourself, please.

PAULINE DOWNING: I'm Pauline Downing, lived in Somerville for almost 45 years.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You want to go ahead, Frank.

FRANK LEE: Yes.

I'm Frank Lee, I've lived in Somerville since 2015 now, so it's been a while.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And I'm Harriotte Ranvig and I've been living in Somerville for almost as long as Pauline, 40 years.

Raised my kids here.

Thank you very much.

Okay, we're done with introductions.

Frank, would you read our agenda?

I think.

Did I get anybody?

Did I miss any guests?

FRANK LEE: I think you have everyone thus far.

So reading the agenda, so the first item will be the mobility update of accessible parking from Greg.

It says 15 minutes.

Then the ADA coordinator report by Adrienne.

And then the Chair's report, which would have been by Holly.

Continued business, the first item would be the bylaws part 3 it says.

And meet approval of previous meeting minutes.

And then finally the new business is Commission goals, review feedback on the ten goals that were sent out to see what were the top three choices.

And then finally, public comments.

And that was it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Very good.

So Frank, I would like to request that you help us with timing.

So I think, Greg, we can manage 15 minutes with you and look forward to hearing what you have to say.

So if you can keep track of time, Frank, maybe --

FRANK LEE: It's 7:10 now.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: 7:10, so maybe you can let Greg and us know when there's two or three minutes left, all right?

FRANK LEE: Okay.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And one other question to you, Greg, do you want questions intermittently or would you like to present and then have questions?

GREG HANAFIN: So most of -- I'm planning on focusing on Union Square tonight and I was going to give a quick update on Beau Street, the Commission had previously shared some input on the accessible space on Beau Street at Beau Street Place.

And we are this week going to be doing the new striping on Beau Street.

So I'll give a quick update on that and then I was hoping to actually spend most of the rest of the time hearing from you all on what your priorities are in Union Square, what is working for you, what is not working for you right now.

And we're looking at Union Square as a whole and thinking about priorities for the curb space and accessible parking is an important element of that.

So yeah, want to spend the rest of the time just hearing what you all have to say.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excellent.

Thank you.

>>: So I can jump in, I think quickly go over what's happening on Beau Street.

I believe Brian back in the fall had discussed with the Commission the protected bike lanes that are going to be going in on Beau Street between Sommer Street and the crosswalk before Somerville Avenue, and had presented some different options for either keeping the accessible space where it is now at Beau Street Place, or potentially relocating it to other places.

We had heard from the Commission that the preference was to keep the spot in its existing place when the protected bike lanes go in.

And shift that space to the outside of the protected bike lane.

So this week possibly tomorrow night we are going to be completing that work.  
So now the bike lane on Beau Street between Sommer Street and the crosswalk before Somerville Avenue will be against the curb.

Then there will be a buffer, and then will be the parking space.

The design of the accessible space will be slightly different than the rest of the parking.  
At the accessible space we have widened the parking space by a foot, so it will be eight feet wide with a three-foot buffer.

And then we've decreased the width of the bike lane at that location to four feet.

And to make sure that that space stands out, the final implementation of the space will be painted blue.

So that the blue paint won't be going in this week because the timing of the paint and the white lines doesn't exactly match up.

But hopefully that will be done soon.

So that is the update on Beau Street.

I'm happy to take any questions about that first.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is Harriotte.

I have my hand up and I don't know if others had their hands up first.

I am interested -- it's a little hard without a more three-dimensional idea.

But I'm glad that you're not moving it farther from that intersection, because what I had heard is it was made walking travel especially for someone who's on crutches or in a walker or has a decreased lung capacity a problem if it had moved.

So I'm glad it's not moving.

What I was trying to picture is if you are in an accessible van and you park there, can you safely use a lift to get your chair out if you're on the outside of the bike lane?

GREG HANAFIN: Do you mean on the right side of the van?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That's usually the side they come out, yeah GREG HANAFIN:

We won't be putting me posts next to the accessible space.

So there will be at least seven -- seven or eight feet between the van and the curb.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I see.

GREG HANAFIN: That you'll have space to lower down the lift and maneuver in.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I see.

I see.

Okay.

That was my first concern.

So in a sense, it's opening out toward the curb, but seven or eight feet from it, is that right?

GREG HANAFIN: Yes.

The parking space will be now about seven feet from the curb, but we made that parking space a little bit wider, so if you needed more space on the curbside, you could park further out towards the road and you would actually have, you know, nine or more feet of space.

But for those who prefer to park closer to the curb and have more space on the driver's side, you now have some extra wiggle room on the passenger side.

So you can pull in a little bit closer to the curb than a normal parking space.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I see.

And then as far as a blind person at the crosswalk, they -- they need to navigate -- explain that to me.

In other words, you're at the intersection, right, and you want to cross -- I guess from Beau Street is a triangle, a triangulated thing, is that accurate from what you said?

GREG HANAFIN: So we are not changing anything with the crosswalks.

This -- are you talking about the space at Beau Street -- the crosswalk across Beau Street Place?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Any of the crosswalks, actually, as a blind traveler, I'm trying to picture the way -- how it's navigable, how you can travel.

I know we've talked about before this is sort of reiteration for some of us, I'm sure.

But you know, there's a difference between a crosswalk and a ramp that leads you directly across an intersection or you have those apex which sort of lead you out into the middle of the road.

GREG HANAFIN: Apex.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So just for my own personal need, I was just curious as a visually impaired person, is it possible to cross easily?

That's all.

And you know, this is already fixed and done so you can say it gives you a direct, you know, straight line across to -- from, you know, one side of Beau to the other side of Beau or however it works.

I don't have that intersection well defined in my mind.

That's all.

GREG HANAFIN: So the experience of crossing any of the streets won't change as part of this project.

All of the crossings will be the same.

And we're not changing any of the ramps.

The only difference will be that one accessible parking space will be off the curb.

But it's still -- it's still the closest space to the ramp.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

PAULINE DOWNING: This is Pauline.

Will there be audible signals for crossing those intersections?

GREG HANAFIN: It will be the same as it is right now.

PAULINE DOWNING: Well, I -- I need to know because I don't know if there are.

Are those lighted intersections or what are they?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So Greg, I think I might be able to help here.

Pauline, this is Brian Postlewaite.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: At the HP space that Greg is talking about, there is an unsignalized crossing across -- I'll get the name wrong, Beau Street Place, I believe it is.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And then to cross Beau Street at Somerville Avenue, that is also an unsignalized crosswalk.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: By Sommer Street, there's a signalized crossing that crosses both Beau and Sommer Street, and we're not touching that in they've for the, but I don't recall whether that has an accessible pedestrian signal or not.

And I can see if I can find out for you, but I don't know if I'd be able to get -- get you that information immediately.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

Thank you.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: You're welcome, Pauline.

Greg HANAFIN: And the Beau Street Place is a short dead end.

It's a very low-volume, not a lot of cars turning in and out of that street off of the street where the accessible space is.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

That's great.

Any other questions?

Greg HANAFIN: So please, you know, once this new design goes in, please continue to share your feedback on how it's working for you.

And I can -- I can leave my email too, so feel free to send me any emails about how it's working for you.

I think I only have three minutes left in my 15 minutes, but for as much time as we have, I would love to just hear any thoughts from the Commission on your experience in Union Square in general, if there are any particular locations where you would like to see more accessible parking and what are the -- the major challenges from an accessibility standpoint that you think the Square has right now?

Yeah, Harriotte.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I have a question which is not about Union Square, but it probably applies all over Somerville.

I love the remarkable smoothing out of curb cuts to make it very, very fine for, I think, anyone using a wheelchair or any other mobility manner.

The only tricky part is there are insufficient yellow bumps for me to detect it before I find myself crossing the street.

I'm experiencing this in Davis Square in particular, because we have so many small streets to cross.

And it humorously makes me think when we first got curb cuts, the only thing ramped that way were driveways.

So walking around Boston in earlier times I'd suddenly find myself, fortunately maybe an alleyway, but still walking into a place where cars could be passing.

So I wonder where I should submit that concern.

Because it is of concern to me.

I do walk around the square and other places, and unless there happens to be a light signal that I can tell which direction it's going, I can make that mistake.

So maybe no one else has registered this, but I just thought, can you take that back to mobility or, Brian, you to evening nearing?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Greg, go ahead and answer and then I'll follow.

GREG HANAFIN: I just want to make sure I'm understanding correctly.

So you're saying that there are curb cuts that don't have the -- the bumps.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No, no, they do, but it's a fairly narrow strip.

It would be helpful if the strip were wider so if my cane was gliding, then it will hit the bumps and alert me a bit before it starts to smooth out and go down.

That's all.



GREG HANAFIN: You could be walking to the side of the strip and miss it?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I don't know if they're 18 inches now --

FRANK LEE: I think you're meaning in the direction of travel.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes, width, yes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Harriotte, this is Brian Postlewaite.

We follow ADA guidance for the width of those panels, the tactile warning panels.

They're 24 inches.

We call them 24 inches long because they're 24 inches in the direction that you walk over them.

And they're the width, but from your perspective, the length of the opening in the walkway.

I think I'm missing some of your concern here, and I actually think there might be a bigger benefit for us to find time for you and myself and maybe Pauline and somebody else from our team to go and walk around Davis Square so you can kind of illustrate the concerns.

Because I'm just struggling to understand what your actual concern is and I would hate to misinterpret.

I was wondering if that might be something that we would be a more effective way to accomplish this.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That would be wonderful.

PAULINE DOWNING: That would be.

That would be great.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Okay.

I wanted to offer it earlier when we were in the middle of winter and y'all had just joined.

But I also felt like it might be nicer to do it in the spring.

And Greg, I'd be happy for somebody from mobility to join us, but I know that Jessica, the traffic engineer and I, have been working on improving our designs for sidewalks with both from the perspective of mobility as well as visual disabilities.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Great.

Thank you so much.

That's great.

PAULINE DOWNING: Thank you.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: All right.

I will -- Adrienne, can you help me get in touch with Harriotte and Pauline?

Because I don't have their contact information.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You can put mine into the chat, I think too.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Oh, Adrienne has it and she shouldn't have to share your contact information.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I'll share it with Brian or start a thread or something.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Adrienne, why don't you start a thread and then I can loop in Jessica and we can just have a coordination chat.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Okay.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay, thank you.

That's great.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: You're welcome.

GREG HANAFIN: So I think I'm approaching the end of my time.

If I could -- go --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Go ahead.

>>: If I could have a couple minutes in terms of new parking spaces in Union Square, if there are any locations that this group thinks should be a priority.

I think previously we had heard spaces near the post office as a priority, but curious if you all had any other priorities for new spaces.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I guess I'd like to speak briefly that Holly was our best shot.

As far as I understand, she is the one person who is living closer to Union Square and would be more aware of spots frequently needed.

If anyone else has a thought on that and then we'll wrap it up.

Thank you.

Anyone else?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This is Brian Postlewaite.

Greg's recollection of the interest of having another HP space closer to the post office, but I think the key concern there was having it on the post office side of Beau Street since there was not an accessible space on the, if you will, the block or the other side of Beau Street.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

And Greg, I'd like to thank you very much for bringing the information to us and sharing the conversation.

Very, very helpful.

And opens the opportunity for us to ask questions and share some possibilities.

Thanks again.

GREG HANAFIN: I will put my email in the chat so if you have any other thoughts about Union Square that you think about after this meeting, feel free to send me an email.

Or if you have any feedback on how the new space on Beau Street is working after that's gone in.

And Adrienne from Holly has any thoughts after, she can send me an email too.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Great, thank you.

>>: Thanks, everyone.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Thanks, Greg.

FRANK LEE: Thanks, Greg.

And Marie McBride as joined our meeting.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Hi, Marie, would you like to introduce yourself?

>>: I'm Marie McBride, I was in Davis Square.

I used to belong to the Disability Commission a long time ago, but we broke up.

So I want to come back.

I got a message from somebody asking me if I wanted to come back, and I do.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Great.

We just are opening up applications for people to join the Commission.

You're quite timely.

Maybe Adrienne, you can get in touch with Marie.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah, Marie and I have been in touch a couple times.

But when that goes live, I'm happy to send it to her.

And I know Holly now has -- I think Holly has her on her email list as well.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excellent.

>>: I'm a little familiar with the disability -- the ADA rules and stuff like that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Excellent.

Well thank you for joining us.

>>: Oh, you're welcome.

It's nice being here.

FRANK LEE: So the next item is the ADA coordinator report.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

We welcome any report from you, Adrienne.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Through the Chair, Harriotte, thank you so much.

This is Adrienne.

Just actually a couple reminders.

The first thing is the ADA community survey is out for people to take it and offer feedback.

We are keeping that open till the end of June in order to gather as much feedback as we can.

With the exception of one, because I have to staff this meeting, the mayor's office just released their calendar of the community meetings, like we did in the fall, those are happening again.

So I will be tabling all of those except for the one that falls on the May date for this Commission meeting because I will be staffing it.

But we'll have other RSJ staff there.

But, so if you in one of the wards and would like to either come to the meetings, your community meeting, which is being run by the Mayor's office and the City Councilor that represents your ward, I can send those tomorrow so you have the dates on your calendar.

And further to engage you all in the survey, if you'd like to table with me at the any of the ward meetings to help get folks to take the survey and talk to them about the ADA and what the Commission is doing as well there's a great recruitment opportunity for you all to be there.

I'll send that in an email tomorrow and call folks who like phone calls better and we can talk about that.

So that's very exciting.

And then the second thing is many of you have attended already -- they're not required, but the info sessions on the code of conduct that is coming from the Mayor's office for all commission members to read through and sign.

The last info session, if you want to go to that, is tomorrow -- or I'm sorry, Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

It is not required that you go, but we are the -- the Mayor's office is asking all commissioners, associate and commissioners to sign the code of conduct.

And I believe that deadline is soon.

I don't have a date in front of me.

If you need assistance with that, I am happy to help.

And then I think -- I can't speak for Holly, but it will -- this Commission will have to formally vote and adopt that code of conduct as part of your policies, governance as well.

And that's across the board for all of the commissions.

But again, if you need help signing it or you need it in a different format or you need me to read through it with you, I'm happy to do that.

So that is all I had for today.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you so much.

Thank you so much.

FRANK LEE: Next section would be the Chair's report.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

FRANK LEE: From Holly.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I think at the very beginning of the meeting Adrienne was kind enough to transmit that our -- both understandably or whatever acceptedly we are losing a commissioner, our friend Lian, and they've written to Holly and Adrienne that they're very pleased with their participation and it's time for them to step down.

So we -- we wish Lian well and we'll miss them for sure.

And so that's one piece of what I would have to share with people.

And what's my other piece?

[Laughter]

Oh, yes.

The thing is that Lian and our discussion, our discussion of concern around the variance at whatever the number is, beacon Street.

230 beacon Street.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I think it was 205 beacon street, our concern about a couple different areas there, their shape and so forth and the width so that a service animal can pass.

Our statement of concern which Lian very eloquently wrote about and it got to the board, we had some weight in that they chose not to grant the variance.

That's kind of a victory.

That's something that we -- that's why we're here and I'm very glad to announce that.

Which makes Lian's departure a little bit more sad, I think.

And that's all I specifically have right now, except I would love to encourage everyone to fill out and give comments on the ADA's survey, which I myself have not done and plan to do it but do it well and send in my comments and suggestions.

So I would encourage everyone to do that.

And that would be -- unless you can think of anything else I forgot, my good assistant.

I think that's it.

So Chair report complete.

FRANK LEE: So the next one is continued business.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Continued business.

FRANK LEE: So bylaws.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes.

To look at a few of our bylaws, because it's a lot to take on all at one time.

But I'd like to bring forward -- Holly and I have been on our own little subcommittee reviewing the bylaws.

And we're looking for ways to simplify some of the pieces of it so that we can kind of vote them in and clear them a few pieces at a time.

And so Frank, can you help us out?

FRANK LEE: Yes, I'm going to try to share screen.

Okay.

Can everyone see that?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Except for me.

FRANK LEE: Sorry, yes, of course.

So Holly particularly pointed us to Article 3, items 3 -- items 3, 4, and 5.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So let's start out with item 3.

FRANK LEE: So Article 3 is the -- actually membership.

And number 3 is about what happens when commissioners reach their term limit.

So it says -- the problem is that we track changes, it's a little bit different to read.

Commissioners who reach their term limit, what we want it to say or what in the subcommittee we wanted it to say was commissioners who reach their term limit and do not have a replacement -- it should say for their seat here, not from their seat, for their seat may choose -- for their seat may choose to remain in said seat until replacement can take the seat.

This stay-put rule is at the discretion -- we could change the spelling -- of the Chair and requires a simple majority vote.

They may also choose to continue with the Commission in the capacity of associate commissioner after vacating their seat.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I would like a motion for us to accept this particular article.

Would anyone second?

PAULINE DOWNING: I second.

>>: I just want to get -- yeah, the spelling of that word.

FRANK LEE: Yeah, let's fix the spelling.

KATHARINE MILTON: I'm looking -- sorry, I was looking at my hard copy.

FRANK LEE: Oh, yeah.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And we have to get for instead of from.

FRANK LEE: Yes, that's over there.

Looks really messy, but I think there's a way to make it a little bit less messy.

KATHARINE MILTON: When you accept the changes, it ends up being fine.

FRANK LEE: Yes, thank you.

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah.

FRANK LEE: They may also choose to continue with the Commission in the capacity of associate commissioner after vacating their seat.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So would some like to make a motion to -- or I make a motion to vote on this particular section.

Would anyone like to second it?

PAULINE DOWNING: Second.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

FRANK LEE: Uh-oh, we need someone to count.

KATHARINE MILTON: I'll do it.

Brian.

Brian, Katie, Pauline you said aye, right?

PAULINE DOWNING: Yes.

KATHARINE MILTON: Deborah, you said aye, and then Harriotte, so that's fine.

FRANK LEE: Unanimous.

So now I have to accept the changes.

This is -- let's see.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Be paint, we'll be right there.

FRANK LEE: Extra period.

Okay.

And there's like extra space here too.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Clean up, clean up.

FRANK LEE: Why won't spell do it all at the same time?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You're chief cook and bottle washer, Mr. Lee.

FRANK LEE: Apparently, yes.

They may also choose to continue with the Commission -- okay.

Oh, gosh, what's that?

Oh, I see the extra period needs to go.

Okay.

And I think -- and there was a change here where this is now item number 3 because I think there was some weird numbering thing in the old -- in the old document.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Can you fix that?

FRANK LEE: There we go.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And the next one, please.

FRANK LEE: What's the problem here?

Oh, only one space between words.

Okay.

This is so -- it's better to have no space before this punctuation.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That's right.

FRANK LEE: Okay, I guess it does look better.

Microsoft Word, okay.

So we save.

Okay.

I should probably change the name after this.

Okay.

So the next one is what used to be item A should really be item 4.

Commissioners shall be appointed to three-year terms and then adding, comma, serving up to three consecutive terms.

There's a spelling error.

Up is u-p.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie, I'm fine with that, I just would like to switch 3 and 4, so talk about term limits first and then that would be number 3.

And number 4 would be what happens when someone reaches their term limit.

It just seems to be a little bit more --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Just reverse the sequence.

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah.

Other than that...

FRANK LEE: You want to make a motion or --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yea, you want to make a motion?

KATHARINE MILTON: I motion to accept number 4 as it's written right now, but to exchange number 4 -- what's a good word?

To reverse the order, make number 4 number 3 and make 3 number 4.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Why don't you -- for Pauline's sake, please.

FRANK LEE: I'll reread it.

4, commissioner shall be appointed to three-year terms, serving up to three consecutive terms.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is that what was meant?

Yeah.

FRANK LEE: Mm-hmm.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I second your motion to accept number 4, the old number 4, now 3.

Is that --

KATHARINE MILTON: Yes.

FRANK LEE: There are two changes on the table, I guess.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Can we have a discussion on this item?

KATHARINE MILTON: Sure.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: To things, one, I do believe that discussing term limits should be discussed in incorporation with section B below it which was stricken that discusses -- that discusses that after the term limit is up, that there will be a period of one term vacant where they can't -- how to say -- an individual must take leave of the position for a period of one term before serving again in that capacity.

I don't have -- and with respect to moving from a two consecutive terms to three consecutive terms, I don't have a strong opposition to it.

But I do feel that nine years in a -- on a commission is a long time for anybody.

And does -- and could result in not sufficient turnover in a commission to really represent the -- the community.

Again, I don't have a strong opposition to it, I just want to make sure that we're going into this knowing what extending the term limit does.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie.

If I remember correctly, this came up a couple years ago when Collin was -- had been on for a while and we were also having a hard time filling spaces.

So this is -- this came up specifically because of that matter.

I do agree with you in terms of if there are a lot of people.

Which is where we came up with this -- actually which is where we came one this -- if I remember correctly, when the term limit was two, when commissioners reached their term it was supposed to be when the commissioners reached their term limit of two and there's an open space, then they can do it.

That was how it was.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Say that again, please.

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah.

Okay, originally when I say originally, I mean like two or three years ago.

Two or three years ago it was written that after serving two consecutive terms, the individual had to take a leave of one -- of one term.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Of one term, one three-year term.

KATHARINE MILTON: One three-year term.

Then what they wanted to do, this is like two years ago, is they were saying, okay, we were having a hard time filling spaces.

So they were saying there was a caveat or an exception to this two-term rule.

If there were open spaces and no one was waiting to be in it, but someone could do a third.

But only if there was open spaces.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I mean, I -- I don't personally think that the -- that we need to go to three consecutive terms, especially because we just approved the previous one where we can -- if there remains a vacancy, we approved the stay put rule.

I think that resolves the term of the three-term goal by allowing a previous commissioner to stay put until that position is filled.

And if we are unable to fill that space, then yes, they can continue staying on for potentially more than three consecutive terms.

But I do believe we should take priority over new members, not --

KATHARINE MILTON: That was the way it was intended when we originally made this proposed change.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: This seems to -- this seems to reduce our -- reduce the incentive to replace our membership.

And to encourage longer serving members.

And I'm not sure that's what we -- I'm not sure that's what we really want.

I'm done, Harriotte.

You're Chair, so you can just cut me off.

[Laughter]

PAULINE DOWNING: This is Pauline.

I have a comment.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Go ahead.

PAULINE DOWNING: The length of time that it takes the administration to appoint commissioners kind of falls into this too.

Because it took -- well, it took me almost 15 years to be appointed.

And my question is, why does it take so long?

Why can't -- I think that's one of the reasons that you're not getting enough people, you know, recruiting enough people is length of time that it takes to approve an appointment or approve someone who wants to be appointed.

That needs to change.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: But that's -- excuse me, this is Harriotte to you, Pauline.

But that is not in our hands, unfortunately.

And I --

PAULINE DOWNING: No, I know.

But what I'm saying is that maybe that's why, you know, some of these folks might have to continue, you know, on the Commission until they get around to appointing another person for that seat, whatever.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is Harriotte.

And we've actually provided for that in the article we read just before, that the person remain in their seat and --

PAULINE DOWNING: Yeah.



HARRIOTTE RANVIG: The only thing I wanted to point out as far as term limits, and it's probably partially covered here, but I'd just like what to acknowledge that if you applied for and were very seriously considered and waiting for the City Council approval and their committee and then for the final approval, that it could shorten the term, for example, it always begins on January 1st.

So whether your approval comes through on the 15th of January or the following October or December, your term has been shortened automatically by a year.

So the stay-put rule is a certain guardian on that account as well.

And so how do people feel?

I mean, we have -- we have one thing to say about three-term limits that's been put forth.

FRANK LEE: I also have something to say.

The original thinking as far as I remember from Holly about the three terms instead of two is because we actually want commissioners to be able to serve two full terms.

Because during that initial appointment process, often a commissioner will be appointed into a seat that may only have, you know, a few months left or, you know, half a year left or something like that.

So that's, you know, not -- that's really, like, not really a full term.

So the idea would be that this guarantees that you can serve as least two terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is this is Harriotte.

Is anyone -- does anyone else want to add to the discussion?

So Katie proposed, if I heard correctly, that we reverse -- we got that vote straightened out between 3 and 4?

FRANK LEE: I think maybe -- would it be good to -- to decouple --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, yeah.

FRANK LEE: Before we do the swap -- should we -- should we first do this change first and accept, and then accept it as a separate motion to try to swap them?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay, yeah.

I would say fine.

Why don't you propose it.

You can propose, I think.

FRANK LEE: We have a motion on --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: We have a motion on the table, so we have to finish the motion on the table from we can raise another motion.

By the way, this is Brian for those who don't recognize my voice yet.

The first motion was to accept item number 4, commissioners shall be appointed to three-year term serving up to three consecutive terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

Right.

I would second that motion.

KATHARINE MILTON: I think Brian was saying that he wants -- did you want, Brian, this is Katie -- did anyone else think we should revert back to the original two-term -- two consecutive terms with the caveat when they reach their term limit --

DEBORAH HABER: I would agree with that.

This is Deborah.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Which do you agree with?

DEBORAH HABER: With what Katie was saying, to revert back to two terms with the stay-put rule.

You still may go up to three terms with the stay-put rule, just with the amount of time it takes to get somebody in on to the commission.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Did we clear that?

Did we not just vote on it?

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie, it changed slightly.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So Deborah, what you could do -- I don't think it's important enough to change it back to two consecutive terms.

But Deborah, if you believe that it is, what you do is offer up an amendment to the motion to change it.

And that's the way we can change the text that's in front of us.

DEBORAH HABER: Then I offer an amendment to change what is now currently for serving up to two consecutive terms and then the stay-put rule would -- would take place after that.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I will second that.

Harriotte.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: We can have a discussion, if anybody wants to discuss it, or we can vote on that amendment and if it -- if the vote fails, then we're back to the original amendment of approving or denying the motion for the three consecutive terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Can we have the wording again, Deborah, that you see.

DEBORAH HABER: I would change it to serving up to two consecutive terms.

At that point --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Deborah, I don't think you need to say anything more, if you're saying that the stay-put rule carries after that, because that's the way it's currently written, so there's no need to change that.

DEBORAH HABER: Yes, so just up to two consecutive terms.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

So then item 4 it sounds like it will read number 4, commissioners shall be appointed to three-year terms serving up to two consecutive terms.

That's what it would say.

So that's -- that would be the amended motion.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

FRANK LEE: I guess we can discuss.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: We can call a vote unless there's more discussion.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Harriotte, as the Chair the proper thing to do is ask if there's discussion, and if no one wants to speak, then you call a vote.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is there more discussion for this change?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Everyone is shaking their head no.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

[Laughter]

FRANK LEE: You can call the vote.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor of two-term limit, say aye or raise your hand.

[Chorus of Ayes]

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So note that a yes vote moves it to a two-term limit and saying no leaves it at three.

So.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: One more time.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: A two-term limit.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Okay, so we have three for -- I have -- Marie, you're not a member right now so we can't count your vote.

But -- but I had an aye for myself, Katie, and Deborah, is that correct?

PAULINE DOWNING: And Pauline.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And Pauline, okay.

>>: Can I ask something?

Why was I asked to come if I'm not a member some because I was a member for years.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Can we take that up in a moment?

>>: Okay, no, that's fine.

I'm just curious.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, yeah, it shall be explained, for sure.

So I think the motion carries.

FRANK LEE: That was four in favor?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Four in favor, right?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Correct.

FRANK LEE: Any nays?

Any nays or any abstentions?

Any nays?

I guess I'm sort of at a wash, I'm in the middle.

FRANK LEE: Oh, I guess you're abstaining.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: You can abstain, Harriotte, I'll mark it as that.

FRANK LEE: So it will actually say two now.

It's so messy looking.

I'm not used to looking at this.

I guess it passes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Now we've approved the change to the item, now we have to vote on the item to actually change the whole thing.

So we just changed the motion, which was to approve this section and we've changed it from three to two.

Now we have to vote to approve item number 4.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

So right now it will read commissioners shall be appointed three-year terms serving up to two consecutive terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Wait a minute --

PAULINE DOWNING: I thought we already did that.

KATHARINE MILTON: We're close.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah, we're close.

So we changed the motion, now we have to actually approve the motion to make it part of the bylaw.

PAULINE DOWNING: Oh, Joseph.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: It's the same thing, right?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay, I call the vote.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yes, you can call the vote.

FRANK LEE: Or if there's any --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is there any discussion?

I'm calling the vote.

Is there any discussion?

My question is the way I thought I understood this was, and they're separate items but it confuses me quite a lot.

We're agreeing to two-term limit with the caveat that if when the two three-year term limit is completed, there's no replacement commissioner, this person -- this commissioner may stay in place until their seat is filled.

Is that covered in everything that we're working on here?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yes.

DEBORAH HABER: That will be covered when we've accepted 3 and we've accepted 4 and we are about to accept 4 because we accepted the amendment to it.

And then the only thing we'll need to do is switch the order of them.

KATHARINE MILTON: I have one question.

This is Katie.

After this I think we should be done after these two, because -- but should we say commissioners shall be appointed to three terms serving up to two consecutive terms.

After serving two consecutive terms an individual -- a commissioner must take a leave of the position for a period of one term or are we taking that out completely.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I think we better take that off because we're saying stay in place --

KATHARINE MILTON: Because then we have 3 instead.

Yeah.

FRANK LEE: Serving up to two consecutive terms.

So --

KATHARINE MILTON: That's true.

Yeah.

So I move that we approve number 4 as written.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And read it again.

KATHARINE MILTON: Commissioners shall be appointed to a three-year term serving up to two consecutive terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is that wording clear?

FRANK LEE: Commissioners shall be appointed three-year terms, serving up to two consecutive terms.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All right.

I call the vote.

All in favor raise your hands or say aye.

[Chorus of Ayes]

KATHARINE MILTON: That's five, Brian.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah, that's all of us.

FRANK LEE: Okay, so that's unanimous, so it passes.

Okay.

KATHARINE MILTON: All right.

I'm going to do one more.

I motion that we switch the order of number 3 and 4 to read more clearly.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I second.

KATHARINE MILTON: All in favor -- sorry, Harriotte.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Any discussion needed or shall we go forward?

Okay.

No discussion?

FRANK LEE: I don't see any.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All right.

All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

KATHARINE MILTON: That's five, Brian.

Do your thing.

Do your thing, Frank.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Read the new construction.

FRANK LEE: So number 3 -- okay, hold on.

I have to -- how am I going to do this?

What's the right way to do this?

KATHARINE MILTON: Just move it.

Highlight and move it.

FRANK LEE: Yeah, that's a good -- okay.

I guess that goes right here.

And then they get renumbered, of course.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

FRANK LEE: So now what was 4 is now 3 and what's 3 is now 4.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Sounds like the world.

KATHARINE MILTON: And I would highlight all the way down to terms, I would highlight -- go for number 3 and highlight -- select the whole thing and then accept.

FRANK LEE: Oh, I see, I mean just do this?

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah.

And now just accept changes.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

KATHARINE MILTON: Then you don't have to do them all individually.

FRANK LEE: Thank you.

There's much I don't know about this program.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I didn't even know that.

KATHARINE MILTON: I spend a lot of time editing -- this is Katie, I spend a lot of time editing documents.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

I think next on the list is --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Frank, I do believe we have to remove Section B.

KATHARINE MILTON: I motion that we remove.

PAULINE DOWNING: Brother.

KATHARINE MILTON: I know, Pauline.

I motion that we remove section B because it's already -- what's it called?

Already incorporated in number 4.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I second.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Pauline, we don't have to think about it.

Let's just move it.

I call the vote.

[Chorus of Ayes]

KATHARINE MILTON: Five.

PAULINE DOWNING: Well I just have one comment.

It's as clear as mud but it covers the ground.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Confusion makes [away from mic].

PAULINE DOWNING: Yeah.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: In other words, we cleared up the problem with three and four, and B was a reiteration that we didn't need.

That's as I understood it.

FRANK LEE: It's redundant.

PAULINE DOWNING: Redundant, okay.

FRANK LEE: So okay, accept change.

And there we are.

>>: Yea, congratulations.

PAULINE DOWNING: We're not supposed to be so exuberant, but, you know.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Frank, what's next?

FRANK LEE: It says 90 days prior to a seat becoming open on the commission, the Mayor shall solicit nominations from as many organizations and individuals who represent a broad cross-section of disabilities and disability-related concerns.

So I guess --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I would like to -- I would like to open a discussion or questions that people have or thoughts if they have around this.

But I also would like to make a motion that we move this forward.

Discussion part I have on my heart is that it is a slow process to recruit someone and go through the process of their appointment.

So 90 days, we don't have that with Lian, unfortunately, but here we go.

KATHARINE MILTON: Frank, can you move the cursor for a second?

Representing broad cross-sections of disabilities -- I -- it's hard to -- it's hard to do it one by one because I feel like I have to read it all together.

Can we do that at the end?

Is that what we'll do at the end, read it all together to make sure it all jives?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Katie, are you referring to the numbering?

KATHARINE MILTON: I'm referring to the whole document.

Like I want to make sure at some point that whatever we referred to, if we use a term like disability, disability-related concerns, that we use the same term throughout the document.

Like every time we make a reference.

So can we do that at the end?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I think we should do that at the end.

KATHARINE MILTON: I wanted to make sure, because it's hard to do it one by one.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I think terminology we can do at the end.

And --

KATHARINE MILTON: Okay, but clean up.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And I also think numbers, grammar.

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah, that's fine.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Et cetera, can be covered at the end, but we should leave it till the end.

Otherwise we'll have to deal with it all the way through.

KATHARINE MILTON: That's fine.

That's great.

I motion that we accept this -- this --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I second it.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I'm sorry there is Adrienne.

I'm a bit lost.

Which one are you all making a motion on right now?

PAULINE DOWNING: Number 5.

KATHARINE MILTON: It's currently called number 5.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Okay.

So I can't comment fully because I don't have enough information, but as I'm reading this, this says 90 days prior to a seat becoming open on the commission, the Mayor may solicit nominations from as many organizations and individuals who represent a broad cross-section of disabilities and disability-related concerns.

Is that correct?

I'm reading that correctly?

FRANK LEE: I think it says the Mayor shall solicit.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Okay.

As staff weighs on, I have a bit of concern that we might not necessarily be able to put a time stamp on that.

KATHARINE MILTON: Could we approve it with leaving -- can we approve all of it except for the time frame?

And leave a question on the time frame?

ADRIENNE POMEROY: And Brian can maybe help me out.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I'm a little on the fence about the 90 days.

The rest of it is fine to me.

I'm on the fence about the 90 days.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So this is Brian.

A couple things.

In a bylaw, we can't compel somebody outside of our organization to do something.

KATHARINE MILTON: To do something.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So we can invite the Mayor to solicit nominations, but we can't tell her she has to because we have -- we as an organization, as the Commission, have no control over her.

So we can -- we can say that we will do something in our bylaws, but we can't say that somebody else will.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Right.

Right.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: So I think -- I think the language there is -- but we could say something along the lines of 90 days prior to knowing that a seat becomes open or vacant, the Commission shall solicit nominations from -- et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, and invite the Mayor to do the same.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah, that's fine.

I would make a motion for that.

FRANK LEE: Oh, okay.

DEBORAH HABER: I second that.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: But it puts us in the control of saying, we would -- 90 days before the end of the calendar year when we know that there are vacancies coming up, that we would make a statement to the Mayor.

We have X number of vacancies coming up at the beginning of the new year, would you please begin your process for soliciting new members?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And we too shall solicit, right?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And we can solicit also.

And we can make recommendations to the Mayor for new members.

I believe we still have that right.

Adrienne, does that kind of capture what you're thinking?

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

Yeah.

You've reframed it in that way.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: The only other thing that I might suggest is that we could go to longer than 90 days, if we felt that that was more appropriate.

But my gut feel is 90 days is a fair time period.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: With the understanding as of what just happened this week that, you know, you may get somebody who, for whatever reason, decides they're going to step away a little earlier without much notice.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes.

Yes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I think that's always a risk.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And I don't think that's one that we can guard against.

Other than if -- if any of us does decide to leave, giving the Commission some notice might be helpful.

FRANK LEE: Yes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: But we as individuals don't always have that option either.

PAULINE DOWNING: This is Pauline, I have a question in regard to that.



Suppose this situation would come up, you know, before the 90 days a person has to leave, it's not that he or she wants to, but he has to.  
What would you do then?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is Harriotte.

It's beyond our power, basically.

Only this is a -- this 90 days is a recommendation that if the person who's leaving can tell us 90 days ahead, we have a little more lead team.

If the person for health or other reasons is unable to do that and gives us only a day or a week or a month, we have to keep going from that point soliciting --

PAULINE DOWNING: What I was asking was is suppose it's before that 90-day recommendation.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: What do you mean?

PAULINE DOWNING: Say for health reasons somebody has to leave six months before his or her term is up, then what?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: The same thing.

The same thing.

FRANK LEE: I guess the seat suddenly becomes open.

DEBORAH HABER: We could add language that said or upon the seat becoming unscheduled vacancy.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is there further discussion as to adding that as an amendment? We can.

Are you proposing an amendment that is to amend it to say if possible -- this would be my recommendation.

This is Harriotte.

If possible, 90 days before a seat is vacated and then the rest would remain the same as far as we will solicit for new commissioners and -- what was the wording?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Invite the Mayor to also solicit new commissioners.

FRANK LEE: To do the same.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: To do the same, yeah.

FRANK LEE: I have an alternate proposed wording, I guess.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Go for it.

FRANK LEE: If the Commission becomes -- oh, when the Commission becomes aware that a seat will become open, it shall -- oh, wait a minute.

That doesn't really work either.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No, no.

FRANK LEE: No.

Because obviously you can't know -- sometimes you can't know.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Well, this is Harriotte.

So my idea was to say when possible, when the Commission is able to know 90 days in advance, we will begin soliciting new commissioners, right?

If possible.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: 90 days.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Prior to their vacating the seat.

In other words, if we know.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I actually don't -- this is Brian.

I actually don't think it matters, because if -- if, let's say, if let's say somebody notifies the Commission at the end of this meeting that they're not -- that they're resigning effective immediately, then we could start this process now, because that would be within the 90 days.

And we could start the process now.

We don't have to -- we don't have to tell ourselves anything else.

What we're saying is, if we do know, but if -- but if -- if somebody said, I'm resigning effective November 1st, we would not be compelled to start the solicitation until 90 days before December 1st.

So I think the way it's written is fine in either event.

Can.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Any other questions or comments?

And then Frank, could you read it out the way we think we're wording it?

FRANK LEE: Hold on, I need to fix something first, because we cannot compel the Mayor to do this --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No, no, invite the Mayor.

FRANK LEE: The Commission shall solicit nominations from as many organizations and individuals who are presenting a broad cross-section of disabilities and disability-related concerns and we would add, and invite the Mayor do the same.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I'm trying to think of something more formal than do the same.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yeah.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And invite the mayor --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: To open solicitations for commission?

FRANK LEE: To do likewise.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Sure, to do likewise.

I don't think we have to overthink it.

FRANK LEE: Yes?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah.

FRANK LEE: I'll take that out.

Okay.

So should I read the whole thing?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Read it one more time and then we're done.

So this will become number 5.

Yeah, number 5.

And it will then read, if we accept this motion, 90 days prior to a seat becoming open on the Commission -- oh, gosh, I didn't realize this.

It should say the Commission shall solicit nominations from as many organizations and individuals who represent a broad cross-section of disabilities and disability-related concerns, and invite the Mayor to do likewise.

Fixed a misspelling of disability.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Which you can fix.

FRANK LEE: Yes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I make a motion that we vote on this change.

DEBORAH HABER: Second.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I second.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor, aye.

[Chorus of Ayes]

FRANK LEE: I think that was unanimous.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Congratulations, everybody, we've gone through 1, 2, 3, 4, look at that!

FRANK LEE: Now I get to try this trick.

This is so cool.

All right.

So just hit changes and say accept.

Oh, there are little spacing errors.

PAULINE DOWNING: I have a question, can you fix that after we finish -- you know.

FRANK LEE: Oh, okay.

But if I fix it now, then it will at least be there.

Right?

While we're all still here.

There we go.

Because that doesn't change the meaning.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Pauline, if I heard you correctly, you're saying do we have to take time from the meeting to do the cleanup?

PAULINE DOWNING: Yes.

Yeah.

Because we have so much to accomplish, we don't want to --

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Pauline there is Adrienne.

PAULINE DOWNING: Go ahead.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I completely understand what you're saying, but for -- and I know it takes time for the sake of just recordkeeping, I think it's important that Frank does this in real time and that way especially since Holly is not able to be with us this evening, that if we have to look at this again or however far you all get this evening on this document, that you know where you left off.

So I understand it takes time, but it's much easier to do it sort of in real time and that way you're not sitting there later this evening or this morning being like, did I forget something?

PAULINE DOWNING: Thank you.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I know, I know, we appreciate your patience.

This is a process.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So did you get the spacing straightened out?

FRANK LEE: Yes, I did.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So where are we in our amendments and what we're doing?

FRANK LEE: So that one passed.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yep.

FRANK LEE: So the next one is -- we're eliminating -- oh, gosh, it's an edit of the next item which used to be item B, I guess.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I thought we had to read that and decide to -- it's redundant, right.

FRANK LEE: Item B, commission members shall actively recruit, review, and recommend prospective members of the Commission to the Mayor.

That somehow got -- yeah, that's right, because now this is.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Incorporated.

FRANK LEE: Yeah, this is incorporated into that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I make a motion that we delete B, which Frank just read, and it's a redundancy from what we have earlier in the document.

PAULINE DOWNING: I second the motion.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

FRANK LEE: Okay.

>>: Yea!

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Some things can get done quickly.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

The next one says -- it used to be number 8 but now it will be number 6.

If a member misses three unexcused meetings of the Commission during the year, the position of said member will be reviewed by the Commission and a recommendation shall be provided to the mayor.

If a vacancy ensues, it shall be filled as soon as possible according to the process above.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Referring to number 5, right?

FRANK LEE: Yes, that's right.

That's right, yes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: From the Chair, does anyone have any comment on this just now read number 6?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yes, this is Brian.

I have a comment.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Sure.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: There's no proposed -- other than numbering there are no proposed changes to this item, and we don't have to vote on it unless somebody wants to make a change to it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You mean this is in the existing bylaws already?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Correct.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

FRANK LEE: It's just numbering.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: It's just numbering.

FRANK LEE: So we can fix it now.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Is that all right with everybody?

We're okay?

We're not changing anything.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I really don't believe you have to vote on numbering.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

The only problem is if there's other things referring to articles by sections --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Those are fixing Scribner's errors, and that's just basic recordkeeping.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I really don't think you need to vote on that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay, what's next?

FRANK LEE: The next one was number 9 but will be number 7, resignations will be submitted in writing.

Assistance provided if needed to the mayor.

We're adding and chairperson.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Well isn't it coordinator, mayor, and chairperson?

FRANK LEE: I guess it could be.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Any discussion on this?

FRANK LEE: Is there a motion on the table or are we just discussing?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I just want to open a discussion.

Just read it one more time.

FRANK LEE: It will say number 7, resignations must be submitted in writing, assistance provided if needed, to the mayor and chairperson.

That's what it currently says, period.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Then I make -- I make a motion that we -- we did change -- what did we change?

We changed one word?

FRANK LEE: We added that the chairperson should get the resignation as well.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: As the mayor, right?

And with Lian as an example, Lian, I believe, wrote to Holly and to you, Adrienne, is that correct?

FRANK LEE: I guess Adrienne represents the administration.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So you are the mayor, okay, cool.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: No, no, no.

No.

[Laughter]

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Not the mayor.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: But you represent the mayor, therefore...

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I -- I represent this Commission to the city.

So that can include the mayor, but it also includes other city staff, the department, et cetera.

So technically this is correct and I think sometimes it's a piece of education that some folks who go through the Commission's process across the board don't know.

Technically the formality is it's good to let the staff liaison know, that's helpful, always, but yes, the best-case scenario, best practice is that communication would come to the chairperson, the mayor would be copied, and then maybe you copy the staff liaison just to keep everybody in the loop.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

So then if there's no further discussion, which I'm open to, I would like to make a motion that we vote the change of adding the chairperson as the next person -- as one of the two --

>>: I have one question.

Should mayor be capitalized?

That's all.

DEBORAH HABER: It was capitalized previously, so I think in keeping --

FRANK LEE: Agreed.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

Is there a second on my motion that we vote on this?

PAULINE DOWNING: I second.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I think we've got it.

FRANK LEE: No one opposed.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No one opposed?

Any abstentions?

FRANK LEE: Okay, so I guess we are --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Complete with number 7.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

And finally, number 8 says --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is all we're taking on tonight, friends.

FRANK LEE: Number 8, all members shall have full voting rights, except per Article III membership, associate commissioners.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Did we change anything in that?

FRANK LEE: I think this is new.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie.

I believe that's a whole new statement.

FRANK LEE: Yeah.

Also I think there's previous text that talks about associate commissioners not having a vote.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: As a committee, we decide can we make this simpler.

FRANK LEE: Must be --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I don't think you have to worry about this too much.

FRANK LEE: It's inside number 2, associate commissioner service will have no voting capability.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I really feel number 8 is redundant and unnecessary.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Because it's in number 2?

Because it's already --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Right.

Because I've never heard in a bylaw where we had -- where you had to say that the members of the organization approving the bylaw has voting rights in the Commission. So you usually don't have to say that we have voting rights, because that's inherent in the recommendation.

[Multiple conversations].

KATHARINE MILTON: I'm sorry.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And we've already said that associate commissioners don't have the right to vote.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Can you read number 2 again for Pauline's and my sake.

FRANK LEE: An unspecified number of additional members hereby known as associate commissioners who are not appointed by the Mayor but be residents of Somerville who

either have a disability, have a family member with disabilities, or represent the interests of individuals with disabilities.

To be considered an associate commissioner are on -- an, an individual must attend three meetings and be voted in by the commission.

Associate commissioners serve at will, with no designated terms or conditions.

PAULINE DOWNING: That about says it.

FRANK LEE: I think number 8 is now redundant.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: So do we have to vote it out for redundancy, right, Brian?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Actually, you don't.

You can just strike it.

Because if we do nothing, it doesn't get added.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Because it's not there to begin with.

FRANK LEE: Right.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Okay.

KATHARINE MILTON: I think you're so good at all these Roberts rules of procedure.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Oh, my God, too many years.

KATHARINE MILTON: I don't know any of it.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Actually one of my colleagues gave me a whole thing on Roberts rules and I've been meaning to share them here as well as other --

FRANK LEE: Please do.

Please do.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I'll pull it up and I'll pass it around.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: When Frank gets it, Pauline, we'll make sure it's accessible for me and you.

KATHARINE MILTON: I'd like to make a motion -- go ahead.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes.

Yes, go ahead.

KATHARINE MILTON: That we end the editing of the bylaws section of the agenda now.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: It is ended.

[Laughter]

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I am going to observe that Marie left us.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, shoot.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: And we didn't get to chance to explain.

So I don't know who invited her to the meeting to begin with.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: So the best I can explain it, she filled out -- so the City of Somerville has a form where folks like a general inquiry form if, you know, and sometimes it's assigned to different commissions.

So this -- her inquiry came through that form and it was forwarded to me by Dan Moore. So at some point, based on her narrative she was very heavily involved with this Commission, which was before my time, I can say, and she mentioned some folks in an email of names I did not recognize.

And so I think because there's been some time has passed, perhaps, you know, I'm happy -- I've connected with her -- with Holly.

I think Holly and I can probably have a separate conversation with her to figure that out.

And I will -- I can reach out to the city clerk tomorrow and see if there's a record of her serving at some point on the city's records.

But she was --

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie.

Does it matter if she was on --

ADRIENNE POMEROY: That, I don't know.

At least in the interim why she considers returning I think it's important to educate on the process, which is -- and that's hard to do sort of in this venue, because there's an agenda and there's other things going on.

But I can -- I will reach out to her tomorrow.

Yes, Harriotte.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And I guess what I'd like to say as temporary Chair, just like to, through you, send her an apology that we didn't -- were unable to spend time with her to speak more about how we currently -- how we currently gain new commissioners on the -- on the Commission.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

Yeah.

I certainly will pass that along, Harriotte.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Just it wasn't in our -- in our agenda.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

And she wanted to come when you all made up the March meeting, but it didn't work with her schedule.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I see.

Well thank you for carrying that out and we certainly don't want to create a negative view for her specifically.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah, I didn't -- I didn't take it as that.

I think sometimes when we have folks who join us, whether they've been previously involved or maybe they're new to the city or however that pans out for them, that sometimes it's hard when you walk into a meeting of this nature not understanding some of the process and business that's a part of these meetings.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Exactly.

So where are we in the agenda, Mr. Lee?

DEBORAH HABER: This is Deborah.

We never accepted number 2.

If we're going to be finished with part 3 of the bylaws, we need to accept number 2.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I thought we did.

Thank you, Deborah.

FRANK LEE: Good catch.

Yeah, okay.

So number two, an unspecified number of additional members hereby known as associate commissioners who are not appointed by the Mayor must be residents of Somerville who either have a disability, have a family member with disabilities or represent the interests of individuals with disabilities.

To be considered an associate commissioner, an individual must attend three meetings and be voted in by the Commission.



Associate commissioners serve at will, with no designated terms and have no voting capability.

Social commissioners may be considered as candidates for Commission seats, as opportunities arise from vacancy or term completion.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I would like to make a motion that we accept the wording of number 2, unless there's further discussion needed.

God bless us, I hope not.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I second it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

FRANK LEE: And just for the record, this is -- this is very -- this language is very similar, but more clear than the original.

So we're not even changing it all that much, we're just making it more logical.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you, it means the subcommittee did some good work!

FRANK LEE: Yes.

[Laughter]

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I'm serious, you guys, we probably spent ten hours and we aren't done yet.

But anyway.

Yeah.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

Next item would have been the meeting minutes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: What time is it?

Let's have a time.

KATHARINE MILTON: Can we do them?

I looked at them.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Well, they're not all available to me.

Sorry, babe.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Oh.

KATHARINE MILTON: Is there anything we can do?

>> Yikes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: You can read them to me out loud and that will be fine.

KATHARINE MILTON: Pauline, you'd love that if I just sat and read everything.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No, but I'm saying to make it available, you can read at least one set of minutes and then we can approve it.

KATHARINE MILTON: Yeah, I mean I don't know what's the best -- I don't know.

Is there none that are available to you?

I'm sorry, Harriotte, I didn't realize that.

Are there none that are available?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: It's a matter of time between -- the difficulty is currently we have to have a -- Frank does a reformatting so they can be embossed correctly, and then it needs two weeks after that for the people to then produce Braille documents and mail them to us.

KATHARINE MILTON: It takes a long time, I got it.

There's none that are ready for that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Correct.

Correct.

KATHARINE MILTON: Fair enough.

FRANK LEE: In the next 20 minutes, would you like --

PAULINE DOWNING: We can end early.

We can end early.

FRANK LEE: We can end early.

DEBORAH HABER: Did everybody get back the Commission goals to Holly?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Oh, that's a good question.

FRANK LEE: That's a big one.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: I did through the Chair, Harriotte, this is Adrienne.

I did speak to Holly by phone at some point this afternoon, I don't have a time stamp, and -- because she was asking for some clarification about the process.

And I said the email was good, but to be mindful, I guess what I'm saying one of them is communication.

So communication at least to me is always a good thing to keep in mind.

But as I shared with Holly, what is the goal around communication?

What is sort of the line item, if you will, so a sentence around communication.

So an example would be the goal would be the Somerville Commission for persons with disabilities would like to increase the communication about their initiatives and work by, and naming a way to do that.

So having a newsletter or putting something, you know, in the media.

So single words or focuses are great, but I have recommended to Holly, the Chair, that there maybe needs to be a bigger discussion about sort of making those more explicit and specific in terms of the different focuses you all are considering.

So another example, so one of them was housing.

What is the goal around housing with the Commission?

Is everybody understanding what I'm saying?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes.

I understand it.

Yes.

FRANK LEE: That's not specific enough.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Yeah.

So you could easily start to talk about that a little bit in the amount of time you have start that discussion and then, you know, finish it.

I think the focuses are great, but I think you just need to take some time to -- like these bylaws that have been worked on so very hard, parse out really explicit details because when it's been my experience when organizations or entities are able to do that, the goal is more achievable because you have sort of measurable things that you're aiming for.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Thank you.

Like to propose from the Chair that we have a few minutes of conversation -- discussion around goals and I would like to offer a comment about becoming more specific with our goals.

Are people in accord?

Are all of us in accord with, say, spending ten minutes discussing this right now?

KATHARINE MILTON: Yes.

FRANK LEE: Yes.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Kate.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

For example, I agree that specificity, it's like benchmarks.

So for example, when I think of communication, I feel that one of the goals I have personally as a Commission member is that we make all of our meetings and communications phenomenally accessible, and we make a kind of, if you like, newsletter or education for all the Commissions, the boards, City Council, you name it, as to what is full accessibility in terms of communication?

I've been sweating bullets for months and months trying to -- to support that we make things really accessible.

Including plain language and all these other sorts of things.

So when I think communication, I think of that kind of accessibility, and then that ties right in with education as a goal.

Sharing the knowledge and the resources to make things fully accessible.

Right up to the fact that how do we recruit new commissioners?

Is it sort of word of mouth?

Is it going to, you know, res meetings or community meetings?

Different things.

I really like this idea about tabling with you, Adrienne, at a community meeting.

So yeah, that's all I have to say.

Who else would like to speak to this?

PAULINE DOWNING: This is under communication, right?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: No, I made it up.

That's Harriotte's interpretation.

PAULINE DOWNING: Okay.

This is Pauline.

One of the things that I've been kicking around, how would this fall into communication? Working with different departments of the city, say the police, to educate them on how to work with people with disabilities?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Important.

PAULINE DOWNING: Because we've seen incidents where the appropriate way to do something for a person with a disability -- the situation wasn't handled correctly and there was a lot of bad feeling afterward.

And I think all of our public responders and officials and whoever should be should be educated as to how, for instance, how do you work with a blind person or how do you work with someone in a wheelchair, you know.

There are -- there are things that you should do and, you know, can do to make things a lot easier, less stressful for, you know, for both the person with a disability and the responder or whoever is going to help.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you.

Thank you very much.

Anyone else raising hands?

We're just sort of taking ideas.

FRANK LEE: Brian was --

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Brian.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I'm going to respond to Pauline's briefly.

I'm not sure that that's best in the communication goal as is in the city services programs meetings and employment opportunities, that seems to be a big catchall. But to me, that sounds different than communication.

But I could be wrong.

PAULINE DOWNING: I think it's a big part of communication.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Okay.

PAULINE DOWNING: Because you're dealing with -- okay, you're dealing with, say, someone who is -- someone who's deaf, for instance.

How would a police officer communicate with that person or how -- you know, to me, it's all communication and education.

And I might be way off too, but...

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: No, I'm just highlighting that what you're saying and what Harriotte were saying are two completely different items and I think they're both equally important.

And I'm not so sure how to -- but they can't be the same goal.

Because I think they're too -- they're very different items.

But go back to Harriotte.

I'll finish up later.

Harriotte, you're on mute.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Brian, what I would like to say is simply, this is really just shooting around ideas.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah, agree.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: The categories that you're mentioning, it's not as though I have a template of these different areas in my mind when I bring this up.

And I also don't think necessarily any of us do.

But we're just bringing up ideas not in any -- I'm not really specific about it, more as what could be possible, right?

And the category it fits into, we'll have to figure that out.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I agree with that.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay.

So I like the conversation that people are in agreement to be on that level of, you know, what area, if we even just pick one person says one, any of us, the thing that calls to them as something that we -- an initiative or something that then we'll figure out where it belongs in the groupings that were suggested to us.

Okay.

That's all.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Got it.

Got it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Anyone else?

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Actually, I had a response -- a comment regarding Harriotte's comment on communication and especially when it comes to minutes.

And it's a request to Frank, because it sounds like you're reformatting the minutes that we make so that it can go to the Brailier.

Could you send me a copy of how you reformatted it?

Because ideally I would just write it such that it doesn't need to be reformatted and that can just be sent to the Braille.

FRANK LEE: That would be wonderful, yes.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: But I don't know what it needs to be to do that.

So I could use the education there.

FRANK LEE: Yeah.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: I think an example would go a long way.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie.

Could you send it to that he too, because sometimes I help out with the minutes.

FRANK LEE: Oh, wow.

Okay.

KATHARINE MILTON: And that could be part of the communication.

I mean that's something, like we have -- we agree this is how we shall keep minutes, that's like one way --

FRANK LEE: Yeah.

KATHARINE MILTON: I mean, it --

DEBORAH HABER: Then also, you know, could be used as a template to educate the other departments.

KATHARINE MILTON: Ah, I love it.

DEBORAH HABER: So that they can do embossing as well.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Brilliant.

Brilliant.

KATHARINE MILTON: Snap fingers like that.

FRANK LEE: There are two interrelated issues too, with this.

One is generating screen reader accessible PDFs.

Since I guess we're not sharing the original Word files on the city website of the minutes, we share PDFs.

So the PDFs have to be generated in a way that it can be accessible through a screen reader.

And Holly and I were exploring this.

It seemed to have some problems with the two-column format that we have in the -- what do you call it?

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Minutes?

FRANK LEE: Where we say who's doing what -- I guess in the beginning of some minutes it will be saying who is doing what item, like Greg will be doing this for 15 minutes.

The screen reader will read all of the items on the agenda first and then read all the names.

So we figured out a way so that we could have it read item -- you know, agenda item then person, agenda item then person.

And it was strange because it involved removing all -- a whole bunch of tabs and just making it agenda item colon, space, and then the person.

This is so -- so esoteric that, you know, I don't understand how, like, there are all these pieces of software interacting and it's -- it's like no one -- no -- none of the people who write this software has thought about this problem.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Well, I think we can pull this offline.

But Frank, I would appreciate your insight on that so in hopes that we can just revise our standard formatting to be more universally legible.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That's inspiring to me.

I'll tell ya.

Thank you.

FRANK LEE: Maybe it could come in the form of a template.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: Yeah.

FRANK LEE: I could try to reformat one of the minutes and --

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: That's what I would do, just try to -- create a template -- that's what I already do.

I copied last month's minutes into this one and then I just rewrite everything on top of it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I just want to acknowledge and take one minute, this is Harriotte, to acknowledge Frank.

Because Frank has rehabilitated a 23-year-old embosser that was given to us a few years ago from -- from the Perkins school with no software, with nothing.

And Frank, because he's skilled, can open source and Linux and everything else in the world has found open software to not only translate it into Braille, but translate it with over 300 abbreviations, contractions and punctuation.

I would just like to honor your effort do this.

PAULINE DOWNING: It's a monumental task, too.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Anyway, thank you.

I just wanted to acknowledge you.

FRANK LEE: Thank you.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: And hopefully it will be something you can transfer to Kate and to Brian and then ultimately to the other departments.

That would be phenomenal.

Thanks.

FRANK LEE: Okay.

Yeah, that would be great, yeah.

We're still kind of working it out.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Work in progress.

FRANK LEE: Yes, work in progress.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Anyone else got thoughts about goals that we want to do -- it's about eight minutes to nine, I think.

FRANK LEE: Actually five minutes.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Five minutes till 9:00.

DEBORAH HABER: My top goals is working with the public schools to see if we can help to support families going through the 504 and IEP process.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes!

Sorry.

[Laughter]

DEBORAH HABER: And I've been trying to think about what would that look like. And I know that the head for the city is the head of student services.

So I don't know if it would be just a matter of communication with them to say when you have a new family going through the process, you know, you can give them the Commissions name for an additional resource.

KATHARINE MILTON: This is Katie.

Deborah, there is a group, I'm going to get the acronym wrong, of parents who support -- there's actually two.

There's a bigger one that's parents who are -- children that are going through the process or either through the -- and there's also a Spanish speaking one, a smaller one supporting a group of Spanish-speaking families for children with special education needs.

I'm not sure, but those are other places.

Not that [away from mic].

I forget what the acronym is.

It begins with an S for Somerville.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: This is Harriotte.

Could you share that with Deborah and maybe all of us.

KATHARINE MILTON: Let me get the name.

I'm going to email someone who's in it and have her tell me what the name of her group is.

Yep.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Great.

Harriotte speaking.

Any other -- any other ideas bubbling up?

We'll certainly take it up next time.

That being so quiet, I will make a motion that we adjourn this meeting two minutes early.

What do you think, guys?

PAULINE DOWNING: I second it.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: All in favor.

[Chorus of Ayes]

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you for putting up with my silliness sometimes.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: You did it.

You did a great job, Harriotte.

BRIAN POSTLEWAITE: You did fantastic.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Thank you for your support and everybody for your support.

It's really great.

And thank you, Frank Lee.

FRANK LEE: Thanks.

And thanks, everyone.

HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Have a good night.

FRANK LEE: Have a good evening, y'all.

ADRIENNE POMEROY: Bye.

KATHARINE MILTON: Bye.