

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

8 November 2022

Regularly Monthly Meeting

Commissioners

Adrianne Pomeroy, Staff Liaison, ADA Coordinator

Holly Simone, Chair

Bonnie Denis, Commissioner

Katie Milton, Commissioner (absent)

Lian Guertin, Commissioner

Brian C. Postlewaite, Secretary, Director of Engineering

Assoc. Commissioners

Henry Edward Hardy (absent)

Pauline Downing

Harriotte Ranvig

Colin Killick (absent)

Jamie Perconti (absent)

Guests

Edris, Close Captioner

Samantha Thurm, Political Science Student, Tufts University

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

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General

The December meeting is tentatively set for the 13th. The Commission discussed the date and concluded there were no concerns with the meeting date.

The Commission discussed whether there would be a better meeting time or date. Holly to poll the Commission privately on revisions.

The Commission discussed moving to two hour meetings, which was agreed to.

Chair's Report

All Associate and Full Commissioners are afforded full rights and responsibilities of the Commission including commenting, task roles, subcommittee assignments, etc. The only functions they cannot perform is voting, quorum and officers.

The website has become more difficult to navigate recently, likely since the update at the end of the summer. Legistar, in particular, is exceptionally difficult to navigate.

The Mobility Division is interested in attending the Commission meetings regularly to provide updates and solicit advice.

Coordinator's Report

The Mayor's Office has not provided any information on new Commission members.

Adrienne offers to help people understand and fill out the RSJ survey "Public Safety for All".

Wednesday, 16 November, MBTA public meeting regarding the proposed Davis Square Headhouse reconstruction project. This project will include new elevators, one at each headhouse.

New Business

Union Sq. Bow Street Accessible Parking Space

Mobility & Engineering propose to remove the existing designated accessible parking on 61 Bow Street, adjacent to Bow Street Place, to avoid a floating accessible space due to the addition of a parking protected bike lane. This space would be replaced with two new designated accessible parking spaces at 354 Somerville Avenue and 393 Somerville Avenue.

The Commission generally rejected the concept of removing the 61 Bow Street space, since the challenging location to reach is the even side of Bow Street, as there are no designated accessible spaces along that block. The 61 Bow Street space provides the best location of the three spots discussed.

In addition, the two new spaces are further from the majority of businesses located on Bow Street.

Conclusion is to not adjust the currently designated accessible parking spaces. Continue with reviewing of alternative locations and additions of accessible parking spaces closer to businesses on Bow Street.

Tufts Dormitory Variance Request

MAAB public hearing on 14 November.

Holly to share the variance request with the Commission members.

Old Business

Goal to develop an Accessible Parking Funds Subcommittee.

Holly & Harriotte agreed to be members of the subcommittee.

The Commission reviewed the ideas developed during the March 2022 meeting.

Holly shared a few ideas that other communities have funded.

Communications Plan discussion tabled to December when Henry Hardy might be in attendance to discuss.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:03 pm; approved unanimously.