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City of Somerville's Commission for Persons  
with Disabilities Meeting

June 13, 2023

7 pm - 9pm EST

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CAPTIONER: Standing by for audio/video link.

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

[PLEASE STANDBY FOR REALTIME CAPTIONS]

>>: We are waiting on a few more members. Hello Frank, hello Harriet. excuse me, I'm looking for closed captioning. I'm just going to do a roll call myself, we have Pauline., Deborah Katie, Brian and Adrian and a couple of guests.

>>: Welcome to the meeting tonight.

>>: I'm glad we could all be here together will read through the agenda. If anyone has any questions or has any additional items they want discussed, please let me know. We will begin with an ADA coordinator report. I have a brief report to go over as well. And then we will do some continued business which includes a discussion on the bylaws, it is the same one we have looked at a few times. They have made some changes they want us to review it again. I will talk about some new business, some subcommittees, future goals and next steps around the funding that we have. If there are any public questions or comments, we will open up the floor. Does anyone have questions about the agenda or anything additional they would like added? Okay, I see. Is a chat. Adrian, would you like to go next?

>>Adrienne: I actually don't have that much the ADA community service is still open. If you have anyone that wants to take a working in or, living in Somerville is very helpful. We are also trying to get folks whose English is not their primary language to engage with it as well. Creek accessibility affects everyone, people can contact me, if the chat is not the best way to do it, we can do that. I will be at peace branch library tomorrow to talk about it and engage with some folks there. Then we will have some other RSJ team members, not on the community path but on Cedar Street on Thursday afternoon between 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. to talk about the survey and other RSJ events going on.

And then next week, we will have two people at the West branch library on Wednesday from 3-5:00 p.m., and then myself and another colleague will be at Diesel Café next Friday morning, and folks want to think the survey, come get a cup of coffee and talk to us, taking the survey, so yes, that will be happening next Friday morning from 10-11:00 a.m.

That is all I had because everything else, Holly is already on the agenda.

>>Holly: Do you know who applied for the open seats we have?

>>Adrienne: The last I checked we had three or four, and I didn't know our SJ held it last evening at City Hall and we had a couple of people expressed interest. So they will reach out to me with their letter.

>>: When can we start the interview process it would be nice if we had a goal, that doesn't mean we call this, so we can continue to receive more applicants, and be able to move forward with them, with the ones we want to put forth rather than waiting for.

>>: Do you think you have information by the end of next week I probably will.

We will move on to item four which is the chair's report, I have a few fun things to share. Adrian I were at the high school maybe three weeks ago at the scholarship event and we presented ten students with \$5000 scholarships. This is very exciting. It is part of the review process when we looked at applicants, we had no demographic information and we did not know names we had very little information we were very specific which I know we went over at the last meeting, and when they sent me a list of the winners I didn't look at it, I did not want to know who was until that night so I was expecting to have the names coincide with the student ID numbers but that wasn't there.

I had written a paragraph about each soon. So I got to speak about the commission and the process and in general talk about the candidates. I think if we do that next year, the process will be a little more refined. There were a lot of scholarships given out and the students were amazing. They were very excited.

They don't know, they are told they have a scholarship. Almost 200 scholarships all different ranges and criteria. They don't know which ones they have received, what the scholarship is until they get called up. So it was great.

The next thing I want to talk about,.

>>: Can you tell us anything about them?

>>: Yes, let me look at that and a bit, when I have a moment, I don't want to hold us up but I will definitely give you that before we close. On July 26, 1990, President George Bush signed into law the Americans with disability act, ADA. It was 33 years ago. There are many celebrations of this piece of law.

On July 26, I would like to propose that we offer tickets to the Red Sox game, the Red Sox is having their annual their annual disability pride celebration. And everyone who attends will get a special Red Sox hat, they had to read, they have the disability pride flag as well as disability and braille. If I takes this to you Adrian will you be able to display it? I know some of us can see the image but it is this beautiful red had it is to celebrate not just the ADA, is a very important game.

I called to see if we could get tickets as a group and to see if we could advertise these tickets, I'm not sure what outlet via the schools or the city's website or the -- I'm losing my words today, different groups who would be interested and depending on how many tickets, we can get a bus and bring everyone there. And bring everyone back to the high school. Does anyone have any thoughts about having a Red Sox trip to celebrate the ADA anniversary. Adrian.

Adrienne: A colleague of mine went last year. So I think you have to look at it from two different perspectives or viewpoints. And I probably have to look into some things with the financials. One thing you could do, we could try to organize a trip like a field trip to the game. That is one option.

If the commission and this may be the when you're considering once to buy a select number of tickets and turn around and advertise and organize the trip from there, I think I would have to check on the financial things with that.

Holly: Absolutely. I am assuming, using the funds?

Holly: I think it would be a great opportunity to celebrate people with disabilities and bring people to a Red Sox game if they have interest. I've only reached out to see if there are tickets available and I requested to have some wheelchair accessible seating and I wanted to throw the idea out there tonight to see if there was interest and if people have questions we have to review the budget amount and vote on that and then we would have to review the logistics and figure out what we can do with that amount, because -- maybe we can have something before July but we will need something in place so we can review those opportunities.

>>: I have to check the budget because whether the logistics of state you wanted to buy, 20 tickets. At whatever price, how is the city going to pay for that.

>>: Definitely the kind of challenges we can figure out. I'm still on the creative side to see who thinks that's a good idea or if they would like to attend or certain communities that you think we should advertise this with. Harriet, I see your handout.

Harriette: I think it is a great idea. And it doesn't have to be a huge number of people but if we could make it, not only the commission members, but other people we would invite. The idea is to have the commission public facing and a way of recognizing the ADA and something lively, something important. I know there are a lot of baseball fans around here Pauline, I know your number one.

Pauline: I was just trying to figure out if we were eligible to do this.

Adrienne: Pauline did you say you have never been to Fenway?

>>: No have been to Fenway a lot.

Adrienne: You've never been to opening day.

>>: I've never been to opening day, it was always too old.

>>: Are we allowed to talk? I know people who work there, and I can ask if there is a way -- if we can get tickets cheaper.

Holly: I e-mailed the contact for group tickets. I estimated a price of 15-20 tickets, at least for could be assessable. I did not ask for a discount, a bigger part of this is not just the game but there's a donation involved and I would like the part of the donation to be that we will purchase tickets and we will give them to people who would like to come. So we would be funding this trip.

>>: Should I ask the people that work there?

Holly: If you want to.

>>: And if someone wanted to make a donation they could?

Holly: My thought process is we would purchased the tickets, we would purchase the tickets, and then we would have the memes to allow people to join, some way to distribute the tickets fairly. And the safest thing would be to have a bus that took everyone and brought us back.

>>: Does everyone need to donate money to the commission?

>>: No, they can't accept that. They can donate to the high school or other organizations. I always like the Somerville high school --

>>: Why is that, is it because it is the city?

Holly: We are not set up as an agency whereas a commission we are employees we are not paid employees, for reasons like that we don't accept donations but I know your heart is in the right place. Kate, do you have any feedback about the Red Sox event? 311 I like the idea of the group getting together in person. Sometimes we just talk about business, but I would like to get to know all of you and I think that would be a fun way to do it.

Katie: I would definitely like to go.

Deborah: I think there would be a great bonding activity.

Holly: Any words you want to add?

>>: I'm sorry, this is Brian. I had to go get my phone which I dropped. I am honestly not a sports fan so this may not be the best venue for me. I do however believe that a group outing of the commission is a fantastic idea or some sort of a get together in person. We have not met in person for multiple years now. I think that would be a really good idea. I question whether funding ourselves out of city funding for baseball game is the right use of city funding but that's not my decision to make.

Holly: You are entitled to share your thoughts. We want to invite people from the city to join us. And it was to celebrate the ADA and using the parking funds we have, it does fall into the category, it can also be something that several of us go to or again it all hinges on the ability to get tickets and of course the back office work of the process for us to use our funds.

>>: How would we decide who gets tickets. I have to believe if we put them up, for even just Somerville, we would have a weightless.

Holly: I think the first step is to see how many tickets we can get, and then out the process would be to purchase them, and then we would be able to figure out the best way to advertise or invite people to join us. But I do think we are all here because we are deeply invested in what we are doing and being able to celebrate the anniversary with the people across the city was the umbrella for this. And what is interesting is this event, Harriet and I attended -- it was either Boston or Cambridge talked about this event and the other things we are planning and it made me think we should do more and Somerville.

The first thought was this space bar event and I had some other thoughts we can talk about later. I will tabled the baseball conversation until we have a few things to vote and discuss.

So, I think that is it for my update. Pardon me. One other -- I am really sorry, I am having a really hard day. The first thing we need to discuss is the code of conduct. It needs to be memorialized in our bylaws which require us to vote each one needs to sign the document and return to Adrian. If anyone has any questions

about the code of conduct, I'm going to make a motion to accept the code of conduct into our bylaws.

Harruitte: I second it.

Holly: I will open it up to comments and questions.

>>: Last month you were going to see if there were specific language that I believe Hannah wanted us to put in our bylaws that would reference the code of conduct. How do we reference it in a manner that is effective in meeting their expectations.

Adrienne: You are correct I am just trying to remember.

Holly: I can find it quickly. It is 1-2 sentences that boil down to us saying we adopt the code of conduct and see attachment B, and then it becomes an addendum to our bylaws.

>>: Okay. That is fair.

Holly: Any codes or any governance that the city puts into place we have to abide by. We have our bylaws but we must abide by the city ordinances. So this code of conduct is part of that. So it makes perfect sense that we need to reference it, regardless if we reference it or not we are required to follow it. I think it is important to do what the city is asking us to do to put it into our bylaws and to include it as an addendum. Did you find it Adrian?

Adrienne: I did and it is exactly how you said. Suite three would you mind reading it?

Adrienne: Well, I lost it again.

Harriotte: Let me see if I can bring it back.

Holly: While she is looking, I will redirect us to something else we need to vote on. We sent you the latest variance request from Tufts University from 123 Packard Avenue in Somerville. We reviewed this variance request a few times already. What



we had, what we wrote against was they did not want to provide an elevator, so there would be accessibility at the ground level on the first, 2nd and 3rd floors. That was denied.

Then they went back, and they drew some new, new designs for the building and they found a different type of an elevator. It is called a little lived here the one constraint with the Lula lived is it will only provide access to the lower levels, but not the third floor.

So, the third floor will have an assessable roof and rooms but no access to it. I can read to you the line from the variance request and I will start with the first part.

Is says and multi- story buildings and facilities each level including the mezzanine shall be served by a passenger elevator. If more than one elevators provided each elevator shall comply and it has the Massachusetts code of regulations. Assessable elevators shall be on an assessable roof -- Ruth. What they are saying is that the third floor, which is being designed as assessable will not be provided with an assessable roof. The lower floors will have sleeping rooms which is more than what would be required for the building.

I won't comment on that piece. I believe there will be 26 rooms, and I would say for assessable rooms -- four assessable rooms. The reason they feel they do not need to provide access on that floor is there It is. The cost of providing an elevator and extending its reach to the upper floor does not provide substantial benefit to occupants beyond the proposed conditions.

The third floor has been made otherwise assessable within restrooms, kitchen space and a select unit.

I see that as, everything is assessable but no one can get to it that is how I read into that.

Pauline: Then how come it is assessable?

Holly: I think they mean the hallways will be assessable. I will let Brian shared this because this is your house.

Brian: I did not mean to put into the chat. There is a nuance to saying that a floor is assessable even though it is not assessable by an elevator or a wheelchair lift. There is more to accessibility than just the accessibility of a person in a will device.

There are accessibility rules for construction with regards to people who have trouble walking, a serviceability requirement for people who are blind, I think -- that is a legitimate and appropriate thing to say.

I think there is an argument that all four should be fully assessable, but it is an appropriate thing to say if one were to get a variance for not having a lift, you should still make that floor fully assessable for all of the other people who can get there, who are disabled, but don't need an elevator to get there.

Holly: Think you, Brian. Pauline, did that answer your question?

Pauline: Yes, it does. It is just that when people seem to broke the word assessable around so much, you wonder what they mean, whether it is fully assessable or not or, --

Holly: The proof is in the design and the final walk-through. One thing that we have been provided is drawings, they were included in what I sent out to you. They were a little hard for myself to understand. You cannot blow them up wide enough to see a turning radius or to understand if there is a slope or how wide it is. There were many pictures that they provided that were the result of an audit done by a third party to assess what would need to be done to bring the building up to the ADA code.

When you look at the pictures, which I can't describe, that would be helpful, and you look at the plan, the drawing, it is very hard to see how you got from where it is now to where you will be.

I agree Pauline, hearing someone say, made otherwise assessable, it is a little bit subjective.

Any other comment should we pull up the designs or look at the rooms together? Frank and Harriet.

Harriotte: I would just like to say the following, I feel as though a serviceability is a universal design accessibility which is the intention, then the last upper floor needs to have an elevator. The second comment I have to say, is if Frank investigated the ( indiscernible ) live. It can only hold up to 1200 pounds. So just imagine, and it must only be in use for people in wheelchairs.

I can assure all of us with students, that would not be the case and that is highly likely that many students would not pay attention to the notice period.

>>: The inspection is a lot less stringent. It is a per month thing. And ongoing costs, whereas the Lula would only need two inspections per year.

Harriotte: I have issues with that.

Holly: About the weight capacity, did you think that would be an issue as well?

Harriotte: Yes, I do. If there is only one wheelchair user in the building for example, maybe two, there could be four, I feel certain that even if it says reserved for students who have mobility issues, I still don't think students would mind that. That concerns me.

Holly: That is a valid concern and more behavior than the weight would be dangerous.

Harriotte: You are correct but I go back to universal design.

Holly: I agree.

Harriotte: So many situations. It's like, I can go there, but you can't.

Holly: Debra, I see your hand is raised.

Deborah: My issue is there is a practical issue with dorms and that is just having a place to sleep and bathe and they feel like they are covering that but there is a social component.

To say they are not able to engage with people on the third floor unless people come down, there is a social segregation that is happening to anybody who is dependent on using the Lula lived. I find that to be a problem.

Holly: I see Anne, does anyone else have questions?

>>: Same thing. If things are happening up there, they are not included. I fought hard for the elevator on the top of the gray line. Every week I went into their business meeting.

The idea that if it is no more than I forgot how it went, I would like to be on any committee to get that elevator. I don't know about the lift.

Holly: I think the question is, I don't like the idea that it is not on all floors. I don't know enough about the lift, even though Frank, you have said something I would like to understand the role in how it gets inspected and I don't know if that is part of engineering or outside of your realm, Brian. I have an elevator in my home. There's a lot of requirements, it was private. There is a lot of legal requirements of how we had it installed and certain things that had to be replaced.

We were always a concern because of the weight.

Does anyone else on the commission have any concerns or does anyone feel in favor of this request?

Katie: With the new building you can't apply for a variance, correct?

>>: The only reason they have the ability to apply for a variance in this case is since it is a renovation there's an argument -- there is a criteria and a feasibility and I don't require -- remember the criteria. Basically, it does come down to dollars where the cost would exceed some threshold relative to the overall renovation costs. That is why it is there.

There might also be chakra reasons, but I am just glancing through and I don't see this being a valid concern on other projects.

Holly: I can read to you what they put on the application. I did talk about the ending already.

It says an elevator -- I am reading my notes that are cut and paste. Then I can open the file. You have my secret. I have notes.

Katie: I think it is on what is called page two.

Holly: There are 40 pages. Here we go.

>>: It is in the code red section.

Holly: Code red is the exceptions. If you look at page three you can see the kitchen, the bathroom, what the hallways look like, and you have the lower 2nd and 3rd floors. I don't know if there is value in displaying this, but if someone would like me to screen share, I would be happy to.

>>: When do you call the elevator, I'm not getting the word.

Holly: LULA.

>>: It stands for limited use limited application Suite three the problem is they didn't fill out the form, but -- this is page four under variance requests. Would it make sense Adrian, if I shared this?

Harriotte: I would like for you to read it.

Holly: They are requesting relief in respect to elevators being required in multistory buildings. The design team is proposing the use of a LULA lift to serve the building. Lift will be assessed by a new entrance is located off of the new patio. The glyphs overrun will be located on the third floor. The third floor is not going to be provided within an accessible route.

Not having the elevator, will they still have been assessable route meaning the hallways and walkways will be wide enough?

>>: When they say it is assessable. Everything else about the floor is accessible. The handrails are there. The flooring and so forth is designed not to trip you. Bears a lot of elements to assess ability that has to do with walking and how to not have a problem. Even if you don't walk as well as a fully able-bodied person. There are pieces that are beyond just working for people who are on wheeled devices.

Holly: The installation of what elevator would help the occupants? The elevator serving the fourth floors would require a larger footprint, additional overrun space above the roof and more substantial construction. In addition the maintenance for an elevator shaft would be more expensive over time than the LULA live.

Then it talks about the cost, the construction, accessible sleeping rooms and accessible comments place -- commonplace and the upper floor does not have this beyond the proposed conditions.

I disagree. I think that all of the floors should be accessible and the elevator should go all of the way up to that floor.

Businesses triggered because of the construction and when that is triggered, it says you have to do everything, what they are trying to do is find an alternative. For that reason I would not support this variance. But that is something we need to discuss together.

Does anyone else have anything they would like to say.

Harriotte: I think it is time for us to vote. We have looked over the information as well as we can and granted it is a cost overrun for them but I personally, where I student living there and if I knew about these things, we to take elevators for granted. The cost and the construction and the very fact that it is checked monthly, and what is called a public institution, not to mention every student who lives in that dorm

needs to have access to all three floors otherwise it is discriminatory in my view. That is how I think about it.

>>: If there is a fire on the first floor, how do people in wheelchairs get to the roof?

Holly: I think there is a protocol in place. That is something we can certainly investigate. But regardless, if they are having this lift or having a LULA that doesn't, and God forbid there was a fire, it wouldn't change. One thing I can say, I have seen a device that goes on a wall. It is a manufactured item and it makes like a soft piece that you can slide the person onto and two people can bring the person down the stairs. There are some alternatives that should be in place.

Any other questions. We don't support this variance and that will allow me too write a letter to say if we review the variance request that we are not in support of a Lula lived as it excludes access to the top floor.

I will motion that we vote to not support this request and to have the letter sent with the wording that I just said. For some reason my zoom screen as disappeared.

Harriotte: I second the motion.

Holly: All those in favor.

We do not support this request for a variance for the LULA live. We don't deny or accept, we are allowed to a product -- provide an opinion and it is reviewed by the architectural Access Board.

I have one more question for Brian.

Katie: I understand is there ever a point that this building is 150-years-old -- and it will cost us more money and I'm not saying right or wrong, we are just going to knock it down. We either do this, or we knock it down.

Brian: Yes, there are times when -- it is a hard question. On one hand if you have enough money, you can pretty much do anything. There does become a point where the cost of doing the item is either more expensive than the value of the building or the perceived value, there could be a point where it is cheaper to tear down the building.

I think here, the risk is more, they wouldn't do anything. They don't have to do the renovation. There is no legal requirement to do the renovation and continue to use it. It is a 200-year-old building that was last renovated prior to the ADA even existing. They have no legal obligation to renovate.

There could be a point where the owner of the building, I am saying this, we could have business with any owner of the building in the city. The owner of the building says it is not worst that's right work the cost to renovated. The cost to put in an elevator it's almost half of the cost to do all of the other renovations that they were going to do.

That definitely start getting to the point where it may not be worth the renovation to begin with. It is not like they lose the building.

Holly: And it becomes the owner's decision not to do any renovations. If they do any, they have to make it fully assessable.

Brian: If they don't get the variance.

Katie: And that is not good. It could be a loss.

Brian: It could be seen as a loss. Yeah, that is a, could be an outcome.

Holly: We had a variance requests on Broadway and it was about a slope between the sidewalk and getting into the building. The amount of work it would require to lower the slope, and I am not going to get the numbers right I am just throwing something out there. Let's say it was supposed to be 2% and it was six, they got down to four, because they found a different way to make it lower without ripping out the entire basement, but what they also agreed to do was to put in and



device -- a device so the door would open automatically, so you go to pull the door open and you are on a high slope, the pitch would make it unsafe.

We got to the middle on that one. It was safe. They raised up another piece so the slope was not as hard. I actually dried by the police frequently and the outdoor button to open up the door is already there.

That is one place where they needed to do it but finding the right way without gutting the entire building, with huge structural changes, to be able to change that. Peek Brian: I would argue based on what they are describing here, the structural changes for an elevator is comparable.

Holly: I'm confused.

Brian: You were referring to the structural challenges, arguably technical in feasibility of doing the slope at the building on Broadway because of the foundation requirements and structure. If we are not there, we are pretty close to a similar condition at this Tufts building. Elevators require an overrun associated with them where, you have to have a hoist room to hoist up the elevator. The elevators like a little crane. You have to have a room for the crane to sit that picks up and drops the elevator.

Above the third floor there's no attic for the control room to live. You would have to completely reconstruct the roof to push the elevator control room and have space to operate with all of the physical access required to get there.

I can totally get this could be infeasible.

Deborah: I'm looking at the original year of construction.

Brian: I thought I read it was built in 1880.

Holly: My house is older than that house.

Brian: Faneuil Hall was built in 1922 -- 1932?

Harriotte: I have a question. This whole issue of having the overrun, what if it were possible to build that crane room above the existing roof so the LULA lift could have access to all floors.

>>: The maximum height is 25 feet.

Holly: Thank you. So LULA is being used in lieu of a traditional elevator because it has lower cost maintenance I won't say less expensive because I don't know that. But the issue is it can't go beyond the height.

>>: Are there three or four floors.

Holly: They talk about a ground-level clear there are four total floors.

>>: Maybe we could have it as part of it for the upper floors, we may have to change elevators at the middle floor now you're paying for two elevators. And not just using a more traditional elevator. There is speculation about maybe they won't do the renovation, can we get them to make a statement on that?

Brian: We only have what is in front of us.

Holly: We are not voting, we are not part of the MABB we are sent these plans as well as inspectional services, and the Massachusetts board that governs, won't say it and the body that votes and if they will accept or decline them. We have the pleasure of receiving this information and we are allowed to write a letter in support of or not in favor and it gets included.

We are providing but a lot of times is variances come in and meetings happen and sometimes this happens before hand. I have read some stories and they have been making some updates. Right now the only thing we are focusing on is this specific request. Unless anyone has any other --

>>: One other comment, they were talking about 5% of the rooms assessable. 20% of Americans have disabilities so I'm a little confused about why the 5% is being cited as a reasonable threshold.

Holly: From what I understand, that is probably the building law of that or a piece of the ADA. I am not questioning the 5%. I agree. There's definitely more than 5% of people who have disabilities. Those are my own opinions I don't think 5% is enough. I do believe that is a regulation. I've been looking through the ADA additions chapter.

Brian: It points out the disproportionality and I haven't read this fully but it seems the ADA sets a threshold of 20%, something about the total renovation costs. To bring it up to full accessibility you have to go above 20%. So compliance is required of to the point the 20% cost cap is reached.

Even where it should be prioritized. This is an assessable telephone, restroom and drinking fountain and other elements.

Holly: You could argue drinking fountain as well. The brand-new high school has drinking fountains. My daughter was using a water fountain they are there.

Brian: There may be an argument, and the ADA may not be compelled to do that.

>>: I wanted to make sure that the common in the chat about the social side of things was read. She wrote on the social side if this were to go through, students would have to come down to the first two floors to be social with their peers.

Brian: Three floors are assessable in a four-story building. I am, I am confident it is on the top floor. It appears it is on the ground floor, which as the shared -- on the first floor doesn't have dorm rooms. The first, 2nd and 3rd floor are all dorm rooms. The third form is not assessable.

Adrienne: No matter what for the student lives on they have to go to the ground floor for Mondrian kitchen?

Brian: Yes.

Adrienne: If the student has a disability on the first floor and doesn't have an issue getting to the ground, but if they want to interact with their peers on other floors,

you still -- social time is not reserved for this. When I went to college, we had rules as long as you were not studying or busy you were to keep your door open to maintain a level of community engagement.

Holly: Did that happen?

Adrienne: Yes, you just met your friends in the hallway, you understand what I'm saying. You didn't go to the other side of the hallway. It didn't work like that.

Katie: You just walked into the room and said hello?

Adrienne: It was depressing.

Holly: I would like to motion that we, that I drop a letter on behalf of the commission that we are not in favor of the LULA lift we do not support the lift. I will put the notes and reasons specifically what Deborah and others talked about like the social aspect.

Do I have a second?

Katie: Can you. If you choose not to do it, we will take it. If you will say this is not feasible, something like okay.

Brian: And Holly you already made this motion.

Holly: All in favor say aye anyone opposed?

Brian: I am opposed. We need clarity. A vote of yes means we do not support this variance a vote of no means you don't agree with that and abstaining that you will not vote either way. We have an abstained and Brian is not in favor of our response. Do we have votes from Harriet, Deborah and Pauline.

Deborah: Aye.

Harriotte:

Holly: We have one no Mac, one abstained and the others are yes.

Brian: It passes easily.

Harriotte: Good discussion everyone. Very thoughtful. This is the best part of this.

Holly: Adrian were you able to find the language and can you put it into the chat?

Adrienne: You guys can put it another way if you feel compelled. We adopt them abide by the city's code of conduct for committee members.

Harriotte: I would add to this, the point is, whatever the city ordinances are we as a commission are in accord with those ordinances. It is an ordinance.

Holly: Adrian, it is an ordinance, correct? She is thinking, give her time.

Adrienne: I don't know if I can answer that question.

Brian: I think it is a requirement of the administration.

Holly: I will motion again that we adopt the code of conduct. The language is as follows, they adopt and abide by the city's code of conduct for board commissions and committee members. And then I will probably add, we will attach it as an addendum the actual code of conduct.

Brian: Do you know if there is an official date for this code of conduct? Most of the time a policy has a date stamped on it of when it was enacted. Were somebody to change it if it did never date, would we still have to follow it or not. That's not very clear.

Adrienne: That is a great question. I don't think there is a specific date the guidance staff liaisons were given some members did attend as you know, and they had until technically, yesterday to sign it. But there's a little more time there and a lot of other stuff going on. That's a great question. It was drafted.

Brian: Can I suggest we amend this to say the code of conduct as established in 2023.'S.

Adrienne: I think that is good feedback for the folks that created this that are not up to date.

Holly: So the commission on disabilities adopt as conduct, as of 2023 --

Brian: To be more specific June 13, 2023.

Adrienne: Also today is my ( indiscernible ), I don't get to vote on this commission but I would vote for that.

Brian: What was the word extent?

Harriotte: All kinds of words.

Holly: So we will vote. All in favor say aye. Anyone opposed? Okay, the motion passes. We have accepted that I will make sure you get the latest copy, and then we will have it sent out to everyone.

Harriotte: What about the baseball games?

Holly: Yes. 311 after go you guys,

Katie: I have to go you guys.

Holly: We have to vote on the tickets, do we need a bus, do we not need a bus. How many people can join. And also, if there is a process in which the municipality can takeover funds and pay the Red Sox for these tickets. There's a lot of bouncing around.

What I'm asking us to turn around, if you can allocate enough money for this and if it doesn't get user happen, we can't just say let's get 20 tickets. We have to have an exact amount that we used towards this.

>>: Will there be a bus that as a certain amount of wheelchair users.

Holly: We have wheelchair users we will accommodate them.

Holly: Okay. My daughter was in a wheelchair and it is difficult to use minibuses, but you remind me of a good point, everyone would get there together or in a similar way. I hope we get to do this and we have enough seats for as many people who need accessibility can join us. I will make sure everyone can get there together. I don't have enough data at this point and with the time constraints where we can't vote again until the second week of July.

>>: I was on a new bus recently, and the left side had seven fold-down side facing seats the right side had several more. Maybe we could get three wheelchairs or more on one of those buses. Basically a private company could accommodate the trip but we can't bid on it but maybe it would be worth asking if no private company has a suitable bus they can have a charter.

Holly: I'm not sure how much information you want to share or wanted for me too reach out to you. I would be happy to have that conversation, but I don't want to put you on the spot.

>>: I think that is all I have to say on that. If we need wheelchair spaces on the bus for this. Go ahead.

>>: Do you guys have access to door to door? Can use door to door?

Holly: What we first need to establish is the amount if we are using our funds. Even though things happen quickly, how do we get people there who may need assessable transportation and also how do we coordinate with the city to pay for these tickets. And we will have to ask what is the commission on this project.

>>: How much money do we have to play with?

Holly: We have a large budget. But we should be responsible and how we use the money. Tickets start around \$50. Not knowing where the seats may be and the options may be \$50. I would say at least 2000 or \$3000.

Harriotte: I think it would be interesting, and you can give us more data. If we say \$50 per ticket, and \$1000 for the bus or whatever it is. I think that is great. It

would also be interesting to look into whether, would we accept tickets that are cheaper because they are willing to give us cheaper tickets because it is this event?

Holly: I think that is a fine thing to discuss. The question is do they have availability. There's no way to know. I did not get an answer back today. I would like to motion we allocate \$5000 of our funds towards baseball ticket events with the understanding that will be there cap on this event and it would be covering tickets to the game and transportation the goal would be to include the community. We are here to support the community. That is what my very long motion is.

Harriotte: Second.

Holly: Any questions? All in favor say aye. Brian are you in favor?

Brian: No.

Holly: Anyone else opposed? So, the motion passes.

Adrienne: Can you remind me of the amounts because that will be in my communication.

Holly: We said the maximum would be \$5000 but it will be two separate payments. I know there will be processing changes. This still has a lot of steps before we decided we can do this. In the second week of July we will have an update.

Brian: If this fails for whatever reason. I do strongly support the idea and concept. And a more acceptable alternative may be trying to use our funds to rent out an establishment in the city that would have, that would be ADA accessible that could support 100 or more people, and put the game upon televisions and facilities.

Holly: No.

Brian: No okay.

Holly: Two separate opinions. Are you saying no because of the event at the park?



>>: I think it is something that should be done I don't think you will get it from where you're watching the game.

>>: I've been to a lot of ballgames. For a blind person to sit and watch a TV, you don't get the full flavor of the game.

Holly: Understood.

>>: Are totally get where you're coming from.

Not only you don't get the full flavor of the game, the atmosphere of the ballpark.

Holly: I agree with what you're saying and talking about away and correct me if you are wrong -- I can I'm wrong, a way to be together in an assessable place accessible place and the game would be on TV, but there are three things here, there could be an event that has other activities and there can also be a general event that we have to celebrate. There are other things we could do and I think what you brought up as well as your comments Paulina very valuable. And I think we should do more for that day.

We voted, we accepted the motion, it passed, it is 8:37 p.m. I am going to bounce around some more, through the same thread of celebrating the ADA. I was reading my favorite Somerville newspaper and I saw a line item about the public garden. It's -- I'm sorry haven't slept for a community garden is a wonderful thing. I remember going there when my daughter was younger, helping her friend and I noticed the community gardens budget was \$2100. And that budget needed and upkeep.

One thing I've always noticed, the gardens and I thought that talking about and when they talk about the community garden with something I wanted to discuss. I'm not asking us to vote for a certain amount, just an idea of things we should think about and see if people have interest. It's kind of late for growing. I still don't have tomatoes. My lettuce garden is amazing. But I don't think we would be able to jump into the area, and find a place but I want to stop a conversation.

Adrienne: There's only -- there is a link in the chart. People can apply to manage and harvest a plot there and so Brian is correct. There are 6-7 that are active across the city. Thirty-three it does say it has four assessable beds.

Harriotte: There are some towards Willow Avenue. I don't really understand some of the stuff. There are great art projects but let's surmise there are ten lots in that section that I'm talking about between the bus station and the private housing. I don't understand, my neighbor, several years ago said I had a garden plot over there and I didn't understand. That is why would be interesting to find out how long they get assigned before. I do remember it was at a minimal cost.

Brian: That sounds correct. There is one. The best thing to do is to reach out to who manages the garden plots.

Holly: We need subcommittees to talk about topics like community gardens, education within the city, I know one thing I was impressed with and talking with you more was special education within the city and I thought if we were to have a subcommittee focused on education concerns you could be part of that. The only way we get things moving the people can't vote but can they can bring important stuff maybe we had a few people who wouldn't mind being associate Commissioner spirit my view is a way to expand the commission and their usefulness for things in the city. That's all I want to say.

Holly: Any other members that have any feedback or comments for creating a subcommittee or something we could focus on by using the efforts and Harriet you brought up a good point, we have commissioners but we also have commissioners who do not vote. But all of the other important work we do and the important conversations of things as a community how each unique.

>>: What about a subcommittee to reach out -- I'm not going to use the right words, police and fire, to educate them about folks with disabilities.

There have been instances where people with disabilities have had trouble communicating with police or fire and I would like to see some kind of training or

whatever to educate these folks. They won't be able to accommodate people with disabilities.

Adrienne: I did do an initial training with the police department earlier in the spring and they are definitely interested in more. I also know that something this commission could replicate, but ( indiscernible ) works directly with the police or fire department and the best buddies program to do intentional interactions and a field trip, having folks come to the fire station and learn about what goes on there.

>>: I did a training before covid-19, it was a wonderful day, they had a lot of time allotted for the session and I taught them how to interact with a blind person. And you get people who say you cannot see that is to bad, we don't want that. We want, I need a word.

Harriotte: Just people paying attention to us people are uncomfortable and they are like deer in headlights. That is just one area. The whole idea is to give people insight into another human being.

>>: We are not aliens from out of space.

Holly: We have 9 minutes and 32 seconds. We're just trailing along. We discussed the need to have more focus subcommittees to work outside and come back and report to the commission and we can have things moving forward. I wrote down a focus on with training with police and fire. We will need a group of applicants for future seats. We will put those in the minutes. And I will send out a blind copy to everyone with a list of commissions and subcommittees and ask you to reply back if you have interest in any of them and if you have thoughts about an additional subcommittee. We need to finish in the next 7 minutes. I don't want to force anyone to jump onto a subcommittee I want you to reply back and see what people's entrances.

Harriotte: The proposal sounds good and I will probably get on more committees.

Holly: And the fact that having associate commissioners is very helpful. You have been in our shoes before. I don't know if you know what the associate commissioners are in all of us have opportunities to talk with others to share what we do, to talk about we have public meetings, and there is a way through others to ask questions or to make suggestions. We welcome all feedback from everyone.

What we really need to do is to fill the seats we have open and to encourage more people to come and be an associate Commissioner within those subcommittees and work on specific taxpayer.

>>: It looks like there's a specific question in the chat.

Holly: Thank you.

>>: Manas one more question then you have the floor. I have one other change I would like to propose to our bylaws. We have a membership of nine, and I don't know the exact date but the membership can be a maximum of 13 seats and I would like to propose we change the bylaws to allow 13 members on the commission. That does not change the voting because we are still a simple majority and that is the total seats we must have 50% plus one to have a meeting or a quorum to deliberate or to vote. It would allow us the opportunity to have a broader group of people with different interests and it would strengthen what were doing. The chairperson, I see 17 blocks in front of me, I feel strongly, I know we can make that work, other seats -- I don't think we noticed it was a proposal.

We have had to make sure that bylaws are screened readable is the same question. I would like to make a motion that we amend the bylaws that we have 13 seats. Everything else will remain the same. There are specific seats called out. One must be appointed by the mayor. The majority of members shall be people who have disabilities. Anyone opposed?

Brian: I am abstaining for lack of ability to get my head around it in 2 minutes. The motion passes and Brian as always, if you would like to discuss this or anything

you want to speak on because I value everyone's feedback and insight. And you have 2 minutes.

>>: I came here to ask questions for the partial payment. You know about this? We have lots of sidewalks within the city and do you have a specific question. People with physical challenges, mostly people with physical challenges, but if you don't know anything about.

Holly: They told me Holly was who I had to talk to.

Adrienne: Holly is the chair. Brian is also my colleague. I don't really have information about that. I don't know if Brian does. If not, we can certainly find out.

>>: They won't paint the sides of the street they will just do it down the middle so it will be a bump.

Holly: Is this specific to a new road?

>>: All roads. They are doing this to save money.

Holly: Let's talk to Brian is the best resource for this.

Brian: For the chair and the commission, I can give a very short description. I know we are out of time. But I can give a really short description. The simple thing is partial paving is to pay just for the traveled way, and not the parking lanes of local streets. This is not all streets, this is just local streets where we as a community have not invested in the paving of our streets and were trying to get to a point where more of our streets are maintained more quickly.

A method to do that is just paving the traveled way of the streets it includes roughly, we pay out beyond where the parked cars are, and the paving, we do 2-3 inches and then we put in paving so the joint between the new pavement and the existing pavement is as flush as it can be. When a car parks there and you step out on either side you step out on the sidewalk or you step out to the new pavement on the other side. That is the goal and the intent. That is so we can catch up with the amount of paving we need to do in the city as quickly as possible.

>>: Went about to get up and down on the sidewalks.

>>: Do you mean the ramps? What about the ramps. Will there be a bump there?

Brian: The crosswalks are not changing they will still be there. Where we remove the paint, we will be repainting them.

Holly: How does this work with bike lanes. I'm still not able to visualize?

Brian: The vast majority of the streets, to date we haven't done this on any street with a bike lane.

Holly: Thank you. I still think I need you to draw on a chalkboard so I can visualize.

Brian: I am happy to give a longer presentation next month.

>>: We have a lot of money from development taxes. There's no reason to do this. I just worry about it. ( indiscernible ).

Holly: Thank you.

Harriotte: I hope you consider joining us as an associate Commissioner.

>>: I thought about it. When I quit the other stuff, I will.

Harriotte: You can drop in whenever you want to drop in.

Holly: You can also invite us to one of your meetings. I think collaborating within the city.

>>: 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.

Holly: You meet twice a month.

Holly: I'm sorry to hold everyone up. I have one personal comment. The commission by law must be ten meetings per year. We don't really cancel any out but the fourth of July would be up for next meeting but I don't believe we should have

a meeting on July 4. I am open to see if people would like to have it a different Tuesday, but at the same time, -- let me start over. It's July 11. July isn't the issue. But there is something with July. Can you imagine if this meeting was longer.

Adrienne: The ADA turns 33 in July. We know that.

Holly: Forget everything I said about July. The meeting on August 8, do have the correct. I will not be here. I'm having some medical treatments and I will be out for a little while and they start the day before that.

I can -- we can keep the August meeting on the books. We have a vice chair who can run that. What I can do is, nothing we need to vote on just something I wanted to communicate to the group. I will figure out if we have someone to cover the August meeting.

Since the next Tuesday is July 11, we will be offset to meet again.

Adrienne: Holly I did forget in my report, Cain and Adam, from mobility would like some space on the July agenda to give an update on the Western Washington Street project.

Holly: We will speak to them so we can take a look at slides and make sure that everything is screened readable, it can be embossed, all of the things that make it but we need former group. That would be great. I can also make sure they have enough time.

Adrienne: I think they need 15-20 minutes.

Holly: I think we will adjourn. Is there anything that someone wanted to talk about that I missed were any other comments?

Harriotte: I want to thank everyone for coming to our meeting.

Holly: Thank you all for being here. Thank you, Cassidy, as well. We thank everyone who was here tonight. Thank you all for joining us. We are a public commission this is a public meeting and they are only better when the public joins us.

Thank you everyone. It is 9:09 p.m. I will motion that we adjourn. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned.