

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT of RACIAL and SOCIAL JUSTICE
KATJANA BALLANTYNE, MAYOR**

COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

10/16/24

Regularly Monthly Meeting

Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

Present:

Staff Liaison:

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator

Commissioners:

Holly Simone, Chair

Harriotte Ranvig, Vice Chair

Sheila Tracy, Treasurer

Murshid Buwembo

Helen Corrigan

Nick Altschuller

Ingrid Schneider

Deborah Haber

Laurie Brandt

Associate Commissioners:

Frank Lee

Guests: Daniel Wong, Crystal Huff

Not Present:

Commissioners:

Brian C. Postlewaite, Director of Engineering

Pauline Downing

M. Michael Shaps

Associated Commissioners:

Ginny Alverson

Meeting Called to Order at 5:10 pm

Chair conducted roll call attendance and read the agenda.

Question from Murshid Buwembo about reviewing projects and activities. The chair mentioned swings, and other projects and explained that there are four groups that cover various projects. There is a room to join those groups who will report out to the larger group about activities, topics that the SCPD is a part of. The Chair encouraged members to reach out to her about future agenda topics.

Harriotte Ranvig, Vice Chair reviewed Meeting Norms

MonsterMash: Harriotte was able to secure two tables for MonsterMash for the SCPD, Sunday the 20th. We have materials from other events. Chair will send an email with more details and opportunities to volunteer. The event is from 2-6pm and we may need help loading and unloading. Holly is picking up items from RSJ Suite on Thursday, October 16th at 2pm if anyone wants to meet and help her.

Roberts Rules and Open Meeting Law:

Bylaws, Meeting Locations and Members:

The Chair took a class with the Office of the Attorney General which reviewed bylaws and OML. Chair discussed a recommendation from the training. Currently the SCPD meets on the 2nd Tuesday from 7-9 pm. What was recommended was not to have an end time.

Motion: SCPD Meetings will begin at 7pm with no end time.

Discussion:

Ingrid: Confirming start at 7pm, no end time

Crystal: Is there a reason that this has to be in a bylaw?

Holly: In the bylaws, special meetings don't have restrictions.

Harriotte: For example, if we had not had a time limit, then we would not need this meeting.

Adrienne: Provided context on CART provider and time limits.

Commissioner Brandt join at 5:29 pm and Holly reviewed motion and discussion with her.

Holly: Clarified the max would be 9:30pm for any extension.

Helen: 2nd Tuesday of the month. Does it always have to be on Tuesday? If it's in the bylaws, then we have to follow it.

Holly: Clarified bylaws.

Chair called for roll call vote:

9 yeases, motion passes.

Reports:

Mental Health tabled to November 2024 Meeting

Parking – Sheila and Holly

The parking group met to discuss a vote that is coming up before City Council. A proposal that would remove the parking minimum. The group felt very strongly that the removal parking is in conflict with the purpose of the ADA and other pieces of legislation including the Fair Housing Act. It will limit the use of those individuals with disabilities. Public Hearing on 10/17/24 and CC on 10/24/24. The group prepared a letter to share with City Council.

Tabled for later in the meeting;

The public hearing is tomorrow and Holly will send the link to the meeting including public comment options. What we are discussing, as a commission is a letter opposing parking minimums. It will be also be heard at the regular City Council meeting on 10/24/24.

Motion to support parking minimums, opposed to ordinance:

Harriotte seconded

8 yeases, motion passes.

Holly gave more information regarding codes and existing laws so we are discriminating against people with disabilities.

Motion: That the SCPD sends draft letter to City Council and Land Use

Seconded Ingrid

8 yeases, motion passes.

Helen commented that this was a big deal and to express disapproval.

Letter will be sent.

Education -

Doing outreach but no other report.

Harriotte will be assembling Ingrid, Deborah and Nick

Legislative Matters – report was on October 8, 2024

Treasurer Communications – Sheila Tracy

Sheila gave the treasurers report. The fines and interest were correct.

Deborah left at 5:37 pm and will do education at the next meeting.

Chair called for motion to adjourn meeting.

Ingrid seconded.

Chair called for a roll call vote.

8 yeses, Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 pm