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SOMERVILLE
Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities
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(Captions provided by a live Captioner.)

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[Live Captioner standing by]

>> I will call you right back.

[Pause]

>> I don't hear anything right now. Is there somebody in the meeting room with the noise on? Like, is the meeting starting yet?

>> It doesn't seem so, no.

>> Guys we are having technical difficulties but we will get started in a second. Thanks for being here.

[Pause]

>> I'm in the [echoing] we have everyone else has shut their mic off and their sound. You know [echoing].

>> [Muffled].

>> Just put [off mic] all the way down [echoing], all right.

>> So who has sound on? Mike, can you put sound on? There's something [echoing] over [echoing].

>> Do you want me to [echoing] turn it off?

>> No, I think I am. Oh... it was.

>> Lori is unable to make it. This is Crystal, I'm testing to see if the echo is gone.

>> Is there an echo?

>> No.

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: Wonderful.

>> I can't get the link to work.

>> [Off mic]

>> You need the link again?

>> I'm on city's website and I'm going to try it from here, but thank you. Look at that. All right.

[Pause]

>> Okay, you are not [off mic] audio.

>> You're going to [off mic]. And the captions are on.

>> Hello, everyone, I am um... going -- it's okay, because --

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: I understand.

>> We have two laptops to be the speakers. And timing issues with the meeting. If there is anyone that has problems with seeing or hearing, if they can raise their hand if they're remote.

So, John, are you having an issue?

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: No, he gave a thumbs up.

>> JON: No issues.

>> I'm going to get the meeting started. Can the captioner hear us, okay?

Can she sit next [off mic].

[Pause]

>> So, the captioner can hear me? I can't -- what time is it? It is 7:23 and I'm going to start the meeting. We do not have someone to take the minutes tonight. And um... Adriane would you take the minutes for us? Are you able to do that? If not, I will do them after.

>> [Off mic]

>> Okay, so Harriotte is on the other side to have room, I can help with those so we will be looking for minutes from Harriotte.

>> And I'll send the transcript to you both for [off mic].

>> Thank you. Okay. Seven... 7:23? Okay, we are going to jump right in. Do we have any printed copies of the agenda? I just want to first say that um, we had issues getting an OWL or IT set up in this room and um... I've been waiting for a list of all of the accessible rooms, meeting spaces.... From the city. So that we can see what is available to us. If the city isn't able to get an OWL or something similar set up so we can have these in-person, hybrid meetings for November, um... the tab is not -- sorry.

The City Hall Annex is not an accessible room and I don't want us to go back there. So Adrienne is working with the city to figure out where we will be in November. Is that accurate? She's shaking her head. Okay. So, I'm going to... Harriotte can you quickly go through the meeting norms and we are going to switch the mics.

[Pause]

>> So, we are going to have just the one mic, because the other laptop has to connect to screen so that we can see in here. Um... any problems hearing us now?

[Pause] no problems?

>> [Off mic] and may with hear you through Michael's microphone, thank you. Sorry for the confusion.

>> Okay, Ingrid is here. Deborah is here. Nick is here. Harriotte is here. Holly is here. Sheila is here. Helen is here. Mike is here. Pauline is here. Is that everybody?

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: Not Ingrid, Lori.

>> Lori is not able to come, and Brian is not able to come. We have 9 members present, we have quorum. Harriotte, I'm -- you're going to have to -- let me bring his laptop to you so you can speak on meeting norms.

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Is Mershid on as well?

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: The mic is on and the camera is in front of you.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Good evening, this is Harriotte Ranvig and our meeting norms are the normal ones for Zoom meetings. First off, please speak your name before you speak. A slight change in our norms is... when you want to speak, even if you have permission from the Chair, wait about 3 seconds, and then start. So we get a little pause, which gives our captioner and our minute-taker, a bit of time to keep up with us.

The other norms are simply, let's do our best neither to interrupt, nor talk over each other. And since Robert's rules reminds us, we raise our hand and speak through the Chair, when the Chair gives us permission. So we will not go awry, I think. And also listen carefully to each person. I'm not saying that we don't: but often in my own fast-moving mind I'll have an associated answer before the person has even speaking. So our recommendation is listen to see if someone else says what you might be eager to say.

So... enjoy ourselves and let's be present.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Now we are going to walk to the other side of the room. We have guests here tonight, some City staffers, here to give an update. Here you go, Mike.

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: Thank you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I'm not sure, um, if they have an order in which they want to introduce themselves. But you have the floor. I see... Meg and... John. And um, John, who else is here with your group?

>> Through the chair, it's myself and Meg.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, and Niki green is not with the city.

>> Niki green is the [off mic].

>> Nice to see you.

>> NK: I'm here, not representing Brian, but um... to help Brian out since he can't be here today.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's wonderful. I'm so glad that you're here tonight. Thank you. For those of you that don't know, Niki works for Brian Costalwheat and probably going to simplify this too much, but she's in charge of all ADA build -- built space components, the projects that are going on now. Please correct me, Niki.

>> NG: I work with engineering, making sure all of our outdoor infrastructure, specifically a lot of sidewalk work, street work is accessible and the construction methods are accessible.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's great. John, Meg, you have the floor.

>> MK: Before I launch into introductions I want to make sure that we have the viewing set upright. Okay. So, do you see the large screen update that says inclusive swing updates? I'm on a laptop, so I'm trying to fit everything in here.

So first, thank you for welcoming us --

>> [Off mic].

>> MEG KOGLIN: I'm a public space planner in the Mayor's Office and my colleague is a city planner and joins us tonight. I just realized that's the first time I said your name out loud, John. So, correct me if I got your last name wrong. It's pronounced wrong. So, I think some of you met John at an earlier meeting.

A bit about us and our team. We are landscape architects in the public space in Urban Forestry Division and this team has 3 other landscape architects and all of us are enthusiastic and really excited to get moving on this endeavor and implement the more inclusive play conditions throughout Somerville including the first step on playground swing inclusivity. So, I joined the city about two months ago.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: This was I think the first project that was mentioned to me. I've been working on it in this time to visit all of the city's playgrounds to assess that the current swing area conditions and equipment are correct against our inventory and just check stubbing out more details of conditions than numeric inventory and data is going to show.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly. This is great, the picture that you have is exactly what we envisioned.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Great. Do you mind if I go through the -- I think the update might give a bit more information --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Absolutely. I just wanted to thank you for having the image because it shows where a baby budget swing was replaced with a Gen swing and the other two remain the same.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Do you want me to explain more detail? Because I will get to these things throughout the presentation about that strategy and I'm going to explain each of these types in the next slides, but do you want me to explain more about that now?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: No, we were waiting to hear what um... you found in your assessments.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Great. I'll continue on with -- continue on, then.

So, for an effort for common understanding throughout the presentation and the discussion that we will have after this, I just want to talk about some common terms and terminology because I think many of these swings we use different language when we talk about it.

So just to make sure that I am being clear in speaking and vice versa. When I say inclusive swing I'm referring to products like the Gen swing model here in this image in the upper left. This is as Holly was saying, at the Gencian playground. This is an example of where the DPW has replaced one of the two bucket swings with a Geny model.

But back to language, when I say inclusive swing I'm referring to these that are available for use by children who require extra support, while swinging. They are available in a variety of styles and configurations. We have looked at many different vendors and types and so beyond the different configurations, there are um... many different materials and we will get to these specifically at the later part of the presentation.

This is only about five minutes, don't worry. It's not too long. And then bucket swings, that's the one that I have a picture of it in the middle. These are the once that we often call toddler swings, shaped like a bowl with openings at the base for legs. They are intended for children under 4 years old and the adults who will push them. They do not often have enough support for different needs and to be inclusive enough. So that's um, where we are looking --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Hold on for a moment. Pardon?

>> So, I would like to [off mic] request please speak a little more slowly.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Oh, absolutely. Sure.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you, both.

>> For the minutes.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I heard the speak more slowly. Did I miss anything else?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It was only because of the minutes and so that the um... captioner can make sure that they have everything clearly.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay, thank you, I appreciate that feedback. Okay, so... the [chuckles]... did you want me to repeat any of that? Or just move on to the next part more slowly?

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: Yeah, we got what you said.

>> MEG KOGLIN: So, the third typology will be the belt swings, so these belt seats are as shown in the photo on the right, these are the most common seats found on playgrounds, made of a flexible material that bends to hold the swing securely

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: We have a saucer swing. They are available also like the others in a variety of diameters, variety of materials. Saucer swings can develop gross motor skills, coordination, balance, and integrated play. Depending on the size, the height that it is set up. They can also be therapeutic for social/emotional self-regulation and for children with sensory processing disorders. We are not including in the data that we have been doing, the saucers are separate from what we are talking to with inclusive swings. And then and we do have saucers at several of the parks, currently. In inventorying and analyzing our playgrounds, we have a range of swing types that are not in these 4 main categories. For the purpose of this conversation, I grouped all of those into an "other" category in the study. And it's not something that we need to discuss tonight. Um... but this is just um, included in the greater considerations in how we look at our parks as a whole. An example of one of these other type swings is picked at the right. That's at the Hilly school. That's a swing that has two seats facing each other, sort of like a teeter Totter configuration, but with swinging seats.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: So currently, Somerville has 23 total playgrounds with swings. 61% with swings do not currently have inclusive swings.

39% of those playgrounds with swings do have inclusive swings. And in this slide, there's a map and list of the playgrounds with swings. Shows the distribution across the wards and the city area of 4 square miles.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Hold on.

>> [Off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yeah, it's hard for us to see this on a visual, two of our members are blind. Um --

>> MEG KOGLIN: Right.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Um... if you can describe what you're showing us or if you have a list um... that --

>> MEG KOGLIN: I could read the parks, the -- and I apologize. There are 3 maps in this presentation. And if there's other ways to help me with this, where I'm lacking in description, I invite someone that can -- that can do better than I am in that. To speak to it.

I put dots at locations at the coordinates where each of these parks are located, throughout the city. So it is just showing where those 23 playgrounds that have swings are located. The majority are in the south/east part of the city. So, you'll see the majority of the playgrounds with swings are at wards 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Um, I can provide the list of these -- um... afterwards. I can send this out. Unless you would like me to read these park names tonight. Um, but I can provide these lists later, as well.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, this is Holly. Give me one second. Because I --

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Um... of all the parks that have swing sets in it... how many parks did you count that --

>> MEG KOGLIN: The city has 23 playgrounds with swings.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, 23. And --

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah.

And then 9 of those 23 playgrounds have one or more inclusive swing at this moment. So, this is September 2024 inventory. Um... oh, no, I have to plug this in, my battery.

So those um...

>> JON: While you're plugging that in, let me provide clarification about these maps.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah.

>> JON: Our main goal with showing these maps, was just to show the disbursement of the parks throughout the city, of our parks with swings in them. In the previous slide you can see that there was more of a south/Eastern massing of playgrounds with swings. But there is kind of a disbursement throughout the entire city. And moving to the slide with the 9 swings you can see that the disbursement is throughout the entire city, but we definitely found key parks where there are opportunities to provide

swings. We can provide these maps, after the meeting. But it was just to kind of show the spatial arrangement of these parks, which is barely distributed throughout the city.

>> Thank you.

>> MEG KOGLIN: So, in terms of criteria.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: The criteria that we are looking at with the swings that we are adding, in addition to these -- the ten -- there's ten swings and distributed across 9 parks right now.

So, the criteria for the upcoming inclusive swing editions will be at location with two or more bucket swings and no inclusive swings.

They need to have adequate impact attenuation surfaces and fall zone. So this is another thing we checked in the last two months from looking at each of the parks.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I'm going to stop you again there. I see Crystal has her hand up. Are there any other hands up?

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, Crystal.

>> This is Crystal through the Chair. I am writing a list of what I got from the screenshot of the first image. But I would like to make the point that during a Commission for Person's with Disabilities meeting about accessibility, if we could please be as accessible as possible. Actually, reading the list for everyone who is there, would be more accessible and would take --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay.

>> -- in debating.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I'm very happy to. I just didn't know if people wanted to know that information. But we are very happy to do that. Um, and thank you for pointing that out.

So those parks are --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I'm sorry, yes?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: If you wouldn't mind reading the list, you said there are --

>> MEG KOGLIN: I was just about to read the playground with swings before the ones with inclusive, um, did you want me to do it -- did you only want the inclusive swings read?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's fine and then after you answer Crystal's question, if we can stop there and allow Sheila to ask a question.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Crystal, just to clarify, did you want me to read all the playgrounds with swings?

>> Crystal: I think it is worth making the point of all of the playgrounds with swings and then comparison with the ones that have inclusive swings. Thank you.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Thank you so much for clarifying, Crystal. I appreciate that.

Okay, so the existing playgrounds with swings. Um... in Ward 7 we have Dilboy Playground, Woodstock Street, Hodgkins Curtain Park.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: What is Woodstock Street? Does that have another name? Oh, I apologize. This was Holly. Keep going. I have a list also.

>> MEG KOGLIN: In Ward 6 we have Lexington Park.

In Ward 5 we have Trum Playground, Albion playground and Hoyt-Sullivan playground.

In Ward 4 we have Healey school community play area and this one is one of the parks that has a front and back, so I guess they feel like two separate playgrounds. And the front one... is often -- I mean, they are occupied at different times during the day as the schoolyards are with recess and otherwise open to community play.

Additionally in Ward 4 we have Grimmons Park and Marshall Street Playground.

In Ward 3 there is Dickerman Playground. Let's see it's hard for me to see on the laptop. Central Hill Playground... Walnut Street Park and Senator Corbett Playground which is sometimes known as Corbett McKena Playground.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Meg, did you get Conway?

>> MEG KOGLIN: That's on the list but in Ward 2.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, thank you, it's hard.

>> MEG KOGLIN: In Ward two we have Conway Park. Argenziano schoolyard. And Lincoln Park.

In Ward 1 we have Florence Playground, Glen Park, Perkins Street Park, East Somerville School, Chuckie Harris Park and Foss Park.

Is there any questions before I move on to the slide that shows the playgrounds that have inclusive swings?

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: One quick question from Sheila from before.

>> We talked about the fall zones from the swings. The [off mic] and the swings that already exist?

>> MEG KOGLIN: I'm having a little bit of trouble. Did you say should that be there for the swings that exist?

>> Sheila: No, is it a different standard for an accessible swing than swings that exist, because if they exist is there a sufficient fall zone?

>> MEG KOGLIN: Right, I'll go back to that slide. That's a good question. I was wondering... let me see where that um... -- I was wondering the same thing myself. Um --

>> JON: Through the Chair, I might be able to answer this.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I found the slide where I have the info now Jon.

>> JON: Different swings have different fall zones. It's dependent on how far someone could fall out of the swing, and so each swing kind of has its own fall zone that's figured out with that. So, we will just need to confirm that the fall zones are still adequate -- are still protected with the um... impact attenuation surfaces, dependent on which swing we choose.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah. Absolutely right. Thank you. And that fall zone, it needs, like for other swings, it needs to be at least twice the height of the swing from the ground to the swing hangers and the fall zone needs to be properly surfaced. So, you're correct that um... noninclusive swings also need this. But we wanted to make sure and check everything to just -- that it would fit these other sizes and that through maintenance too, just to assure that the conditions are um... as they should be now, without cracks, damage and that sort of thing.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is Holly, I'm going to pause you. One other question from [off mic] I'm going to bring the laptop.

>> It's okay, it's okay I think [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Oh, okay. You're going to have to take off your mask or I have to bring you to the laptop.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: My question is, to just clarify that what I think I heard you say, was depending upon the type of swing there are different fall zone requirements. And the current swings which are for quote, anybody, not the inclusive ones, are already -- have the necessary fall zones.

>> MEG KOGLIN: All of our parks meet that requirement and what is there for ADA requirements. But we are trying -- we recognize that that is not enough and we want to do more and are hearing that. But the -- we are not running into, as I'll show you where we are doing the updates for the swings. And where all those criteria are met. We are not running into fall zone being an obstacle.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Wouldn't it be easier to order the various types of inclusive swings that fit within the fall zone of the other swings? And this is leaving aside that --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think that's outside of what we are talking about right now.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: That's fine. That's fine. Sure.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: If you still have the question afterwards, we can go back to it. Please continue, Meg. Thank you.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay. Thank you. So for the playgrounds that currently have inclusive swings, um, we have... going back starting -- I don't know why I started with 7 and went down to 1. Forgive me for that. But since I did the last time, I will on this one too.

[Slide Changed].

>> MEG KOGLIN: The playgrounds with inclusive swings in Ward 7 is Hodgkis Curtain Park, none in Ward 6.

Ward 5 has Albion Playground.

Ward 4 has Grimmons Park and Marshall Street Playground.

Ward 3 has Central Hill Playground.

Ward 2 has Argenziano Schoolyard.

Ward 1 has Glen Park, Chuckie Harris Park and Foss Park.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: The playgrounds where we -- we are going to add ten additional playgrounds to have an inclusive swing and the city of Somerville will fund this, we are adding them -- we are trying to do this distribution and really to add them to as many parks as we can that do not have that option. Um, we are adding them to, in Ward 7, to Dilboy Playground, Woodstock Street Playground.

To Ward 6, to Lexington Park.

In Ward 5, Trum Playground and Hoyt Sullivan Playground.

In Ward 4 we do not have additions at that moment. That doesn't mean that in the future that isn't a possibility.

In Ward 3 we are adding to Dickerman Playground.

In Ward 2, adding to Conway Park and Lincoln Park.

In Ward 1 we are adding to East Somerville School and Perkins Street Park.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: And here I have a map that shows all of the playgrounds that will have inclusive swings after this update. These updates bring us to a total of 19 playgrounds that have inclusive swings in Somerville. Would you like memo to read this list that has all of them? Um, or is this something that feels fine to distribute after?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, this is Holly. I would have reviewed these slides before you presented them and I would have helped with you know, some of the obstacles with the visuals and such. But did you just say that you're putting ten swings in these areas? And you're funding them, not our funds?

>> MEG KOGLIN: We are adding ten additional swings and yes, the City of Somerville, I mean, we feel it's the right thing to do that we pay for them and open up those funds for the committee to be able to use them for other things.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, our plan was to actually put in 20 swings, because we wanted one in every single park that had two baby seats.

>> MEG KOGLIN: We -- so we did -- I can go back and show um --

There are 4 parks out of all the playgrounds. Here, I can get to --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: There are 4 parks that have issues?

>> MEG KOGLIN: We are going from 39% of playgrounds that have swings, having an inclusive option, to 83% of playgrounds with swings having an inclusive option. So going from 9 to 19 playgrounds. We hear you that anything less than 100% is not there yet.

But this is because we did have to meet the criteria of there being two bucket swings. We have done this at every -- the update is for every playground that has at least two bucket swings at the moment.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Can you go back to that screen from before where you have the list of the playgrounds?

So... what is um... is Kenny Park on the list?

>> MEG KOGLIN: I'm sorry?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Kennedy Park.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Oh, the Kennedy School?

>> Kenny Park.

>> Ward 6.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That park has two baby swings.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Penny? I'm sorry, I'm not -- Jon?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: K-E-N-N-E-Y.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Not Kennedy. Um, I did not -- if it is, then I missed it on the list, so thank you. I'll write that down and we can add that. Um... if that --

Yeah. That was my miss, then. Um... let me grab a piece of paper.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I didn't thank you for all of the work that you've done and this presentation. And of course, going forward in offering to um... use City funds to do this is wonderful. But I just want to go back again to that list one more time.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah, of course. And we can also send this through, Holly, like um... if it helps after as well. Um, because there is an area -- there's an area we would really love feedback too, in what we have been finding um, just talking to different vendors and people at the playground so we would love to learn more specifics, based on your experience. And I would love to get to that part to get to ask those questions too, if there's time.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: The high school also has two baby swings.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Here, let me grab a pen here.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Which high school?

>> JON: I believe Central Hill Playground.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Oh, yeah. That's the -- we counted that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It does not have an accessible swing at the high school.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Right. Um... well....

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Baby swings that you replaced.

>> MEG KOGLIN: It's on the list of swings. We will have um... a -- we are updating that park.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It's on this page because I don't see it listed.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Central Hill Playground?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: No, that's what is called the high school?

>> JON: That is correct.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Right.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, thank you, I'll change that on my list to Central Hill.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah, and I think there's a lot of different colloquial between -- and like what people know of in the city and um... and then a list we have and then Google Maps, I've been noticing myself, different names.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, four swings, two rope swings.

What about Ozgood?

>> MEG KOGLIN: We visited and there were no swings there.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, one baby set. Okay, and we got Lincoln. What about Walnut Street?

>> MEG KOGLIN: That's on there. It's one of the four where it doesn't have -- meet the criteria yet, for this kind of update.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Oh because of us saying we wanted there to be two baby swings. Perkins?

>> MEG KOGLIN: Perkins is on there.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: And... I appreciate you bearing with me. Capuano?

>> MEG KOGLIN: We went to Capuano and I forget if it was one -- so many parts about this. Um, I know it was part of the -- one of the ones I visited.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: So it didn't have swings at all or it didn't -- I think it had no swings at all.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Now the schoolyards are also on our list to put these swings into.

>> JON: And we have included schoolyards in this analysis.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Cool. All right. Thank you so much. Keep going.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay, does anyone else have any questions before the next part?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Go ahead, Sheila.

>> Sheila: Back to the central hill are you counting these swings as accessible?

>> MEG KOGLIN: No. The saucers we are not counting those as inclusive swings. I know that they are particularly for sensory regulation. And cross motor skills. They are styles I feel, I've noticed they can be kind of grouped in but they are -- we are not calling them that for this purpose because they don't meet the support needs and the stabilization that we are calling the inclusive swing. So, we have -- the saucers is its own category that we are not putting in the presentation tonight.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Great.

>> Central Hill you need to check again because they [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, we will double check. Thank you so much. Please continue.

>> MEG KOGLIN: We would love your feedback on the types of inclusive swings you prefer. There are so many models and we have talked with vendors. One great thing I'm seeing is that more is coming. People and playground vendors are really improving and it seems to be across the board, that more options are being available readily and if I can think of other product categories, where this has happened over the years, it excites me to think that this is going to hopefully be a game changer to make playgrounds better across the board in our whole country. And we are really trying to understand the types of foundation and base types and harness types that can best suit a variety of needs and this was things like in the park visits I tried to talk to caretakers when I was there. Um... some of the visits happened during recess so I tried to stay apart. But I know that you guys have expertise and um... we would like to hear that. So, the first is... um... I'm talking about the swing types as foundations and harnesses, so with the foundation, there's the Gen swing type that the committee has been talking about a lot over what I understand is more than a year. And not just in recent months.

And those we already have ten installed across the city. There's a photograph on the left side of the slide that shows the swing type. They are characterized by a rectangular L shape that has support in the back, the seat and the legs and feet.

The other type of foundation is this rounded cocoon-like hard surface pictured on the right. It curves around the body, slightly, more than the flat back type.

And in this, the torso and seat are supported, but not the lower legs, like these L-shaped swings.

And also, just through talking with caretakers, um, I was learning just -- and teachers, I was learning that some of them can be harder for people to lift the children in at different ages and also um... did pushing each other for integrated play. It would be helpful to get your insight on that.

And the other thing that is tricky is when we have a place that is as dense as Somerville, it's hard to get enough open space, so with that limitation, the concern is with the second type, it is sized for small kids and older kids.

So that cocoon type is sized for kids typically two to five and then another size needed for kids five to 12, whereas the L shape, what we are finding is that most vendors specify it for a range of ages of 2 to 12 and based more instead of 2 categories, they base it on a maximum.

So, a maximum height of 125 pounds -- I'm sorry. A maximum height of 45 inches and maximum weight of 125 pounds.

And we can go back to these slides, too. Because I know I just put a lot of information out there. Um...

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: And the second area that we look at is the types of harnesses. Because what we are finding is a lot of vendors can offer a plug-and-play. Where you can have either harness type on the base that they have. Um... so there's the two harnesses we are looking at are um... pictured at the left. The adjustable woven belt straps which will stabilizing the body at the torso and at the waist. Adjustability is a keyword on that one and accommodate 125 pounds and 45 inches tall.

This is what we currently have in 9 of the 10 swings that we have installed at the moment. The other one is this harness which is a hard harness. And it also stabilizes the torso and waist but it's more size-specific than the belt. Similar to how the cocoon is more specific than the L shape foundation. And this one, the hard harness anecdotally, I was -- some of the caretakers gave me feedback that they found it easier for them to use in getting the kids in and out. But again the concern that we have is that it's sized for different ages. And it's again, grouped from 2-5 and 5-12.

[Slide Changed]

>> MEG KOGLIN: So we would really love to know what your experiences are around these different types of swings and what your preferences are.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I have personal experience with this type of swing. I know Sheila does, also. Nick, another member here, has used some.

Anyone else have children or experience or used these swings that's online? That's a member? If you have, if you could raise your hand.

>> Could you take a question?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I'm just asking of our members, who have used these swings with children, what their experiences are. And if there's anyone else online that I'm not aware of that's a member who has used these swings? Nick, do you have feedback or would you like to say something?

>> Sure, my only real concern about the swings is in my experience, maybe I'm a rare case, the hard flip-over harness is often broken or [off mic] hard to lock in. So, I would prefer the seat belt type.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you.

>> MEG KOGLIN: That's really helpful.

>> Holly, I would agree that they are real dangerous. Sheila?

>> The only thing I'll say about the cocoon, the harder one, that's what we were talking about [off mic] playground and what I saw was it's easy for the kids to get in them themselves. Because you just lift it up and it's easy to go up and down. I'm not -- it's funny because [off mic] I found looking at it, it's not as much stability for younger -- very young child like straps. And the one where you're strapped in.

But the other thing too, for some of the kids it's nice because [off mic]. But I'm surprised because it's bigger kids that are using it.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: My personal experience trying to use the hard sided ones is um, that they are very difficult to not -- to put the child in and not hit them and if they have limited mobility in the chest they can't sit in that.

The only thing that supports them is the red Gen swing. And it's legs dangling and when legs are... I don't know how to say this. The feet will turn blue. They need their legs supported while they are swaying. And again I know that that's not every child. And we are never going to get what is right for every child. And we all would like to see a combination of different accessible swings or inclusive swings, as we like to call them.

But the Gen swing is what I could call the gold standard.

And that's because in our first cast was 20 swings. So every park that had two buckets could be replaced, what only a small child would be using with this swing. So, a small child could still be safely secured in that swing and we wouldn't be taking older kid standard, just I'm doing this picture but I don't know what it's called.

The strap-across. Like deny adult swing. We wouldn't be taking that away. But the Gen swing goes up to 150 pound and you can -- you don't have to use all parts of the harness and it's fully accessible. So it can hold a small kid, a baby can sit in that safely, as well as an adult up to 150 pounds. So that's why we wanted to put Gen swings in all that we were putting in.

>> JON: Through the Chair. Thank you very much we hear your comments about the straps and swings.

Sounds like a preference for the swing that can support all parts of the body along with more of the flexible fabric or nylon harnesses.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yeah. Um, and I still feel very strongly that the commission is putting these swings in.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Sorry, did you -- clarify. I don't think I understand, that's all.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I feel strongly that the commission still remain a part of this um... this project.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Are you saying in terms of funding or, I mean --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: In terms of funding, but also, in charge of what those swings actually end up being.

>> JON: Of course. So, I think our plan will be to review all of your comments, and try and find the best swing. It sounds like this Gen swing is the preferred option. And then we can present or inform you of the swing we decide will work best for your review.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yeah. But that... that's um... --

Harriotte, did you have a comment? You can walk over.

Because part of this is, the 20 swings and if we can't find a place for 20 swings we get that. Then it was --

>> MEG KOGLIN: This will be 20 swings though, since I'm so glad you caught that missed Kenney Park. If that has the two bucket swings that brings us to 20 total.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I hear the clear intentions of the City --

>> JON: My apologies, through the Chair but we can want hear Harriotte. I think we are picking it up from Mike's laptop.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Vana White made a mistake. This is why we need equity in all of our meeting spaces.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Yes we do. This is Harriotte through the Chair. I hear your department and the plans and the city intends to make as many possible inclusive swings in all the parks. I hear that. One of the big problem, I've been blind since I was 14 and one of the big problems is winning the confidence of the different departments that deal with accessibility. The confidence that we are the experts. To a great extent. If I can reiterate what I think I heard you just say, is we will take your recommendation of the red Gen swing into consideration, yes.

And as you go through the process, if you have counter-offers to different types of swings, would you also consult with Holly, at least, and some of the SEPD members so that we can concur on it, rather than you all decide for us what's going to work? And I know that sounds a bit radical but I would like to just speak plainly.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Yeah, thank you and um... I think -- the purpose of us tonight asking is because we want to get the swing that you are advising is the best swing.

I anticipate -- I can't say anything definitively now without going back through our procurement process. But what I believe is going to happen next is we will get the Gen swings, we will purchase them and go through procurement and install them this winter.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Through the Chair, one more question. [Clears throat]... the City has requisition 10 swings. Is there any counter-concern if we contribute some of the SEPD funds to 10 more swings?

>> MEG KOGLIN: We don't have a place for them yet. That's the... that's the problem right now. With the criteria of the two bucket swings, um... we just -- we agree with you and I just want to reiterate that as much as possible that... we want these parks to be as inclusive as possible. Um... and are trying to figure out how to do it, while maintaining a toddler bucket swing option. And the other options.

So... regrettably at this moment, there will be 4 remaining playgrounds with swings that don't meet that criteria. Um...

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Just one last thing, through the Chair. I hear that... I am delighted. I am really glad that we are on the same page and all of that and I still think um, over time, a year, years, whatever it takes. Can that remain when there is room, when there is this or that, that we are ready and eager to contribute funds to more swings I don't expect 30 swings to suddenly arrive in the park, or any of us do.

But we would like to share responsibility just to kind of ownership of accessibility in Somerville because we can do that as a commission.

>> MEG KOGLIN: That's wonderful.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I think it also comes back to us having ownership of the project. We were advised that we needed um, your insight and your review of what was in the built space and we really want to own this project, with your guidance and really make the choices of what goes in there. Which includes other things like signage on them and um... also working with you um... on the universal playground that is going to be built at the Kennedy School and I mean, um, Jon, either of you know, how many parks are in Somerville right now?

>> JON: Through the Chair, I believe 83.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, so we are going to have, when we are done, how many will have an accessible swing? And you know what, that 80 number is not fair because part --

>> MEG KOGLIN: 23 have swings.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Pardon?

>> MEG KOGLIN: 23 have swings.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: 23, any kind of swing in the city?

>> MEG KOGLIN: Correct.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: And then there will be ten. But in those parks that have play structures. So you know, the 83 number includes my favorite park which is Paul Revere Park, 6x8 feet and it's a triangle and it is really a memorial of Paul Revere on Broadway but it counts as a park and has no play in it. So 83 number there's parks that we could never put accessible play into. But think about it... --

>> JON: Through the Chair, yes.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: We are making huge progress here, but we still have parks that don't have swings but play structures that have nothing accessible for a kid in a wheelchair or uses a mobility device to play on or roll towards and that's really the bigger project that we would love to work with you on. Um, Jesse, I see your hand is raised. Hold on Jesse, I believe that um... Ingrid. Sorry. The brown hair is throwing me.

>> Ingrid: If you for this presentation. I've been on this since the beginning. And I just um, I just want to know, whoever... whoever is going to pay for them, when are they going to go up? You said this winter? So they are not going to be playing in them until next spring?

>> MEG KOGLIN: Correct. Because the procurement process and lead time for vendors takes time and because it's essential that we got your input on which swing to do. So procurement, by the time we go through that and lead time for vendors, if they have stock 4-6 weeks, so that's --

We don't -- they should go in this winter. I don't know if it will be December, January or February. But um, that's the timeline that we are going to do, as fast as we can.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: And um, I -- this is Holly. I can add that part of this project I have several vendors that have those swings in their two week turn around times once we issue a PO and I know there's a procurement process, as far as them being a state-authorized vendors we may need mull tip 8 bids. But I've done that research also, so I can share that with you.

>> MEG KOGLIN: The vendors say the 4-6, that's what they have. But it might be faster. Um... I -- yeah. And I would love to know any resources that you have already put energy and time into. That's awesome.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I would like the ability to talk to you directly. That would be wonderful.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I think we are here tonight to do that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: But I mean, as of like tomorrow. Am I allowed to speak to you? [Chuckles].

>> JON: Through the Chair, Holly, you can e-mail myself, Meg and Louisa to facilitate more conversations.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I see lots of hands up. Jesse you hand your hands up -- your hand up, sorry.

>> Jesse: Thank you to the staff that is here. I appreciate the work that you have put in. And I do understand wants to be and is in the driver's seat. But I would ask if you could take back to other staff the question that I have.

Some parks that are fairly new, so in other words they are not -- they wouldn't be due to the replaced for quite some time. Maybe when those parks were built, if it wasn't in the budget to add another feature, so let's say --

I don't know if there's any room but for example, Dian a Crem playground has a saucer swing underneath the foot bridge. Say if there's space if you could bring this back to staff, if the Persons With Disability Commission wanted to purchase equipment and have it installed, using their funds, so that we could add to an existing park, accessible swing where there isn't one now, um, if you could look at the different parks and see where there may be opportunities to do that. If that's something that you can talk to Louisa and others up the chain to think about.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Thanks, Jesse. That's a great idea and we -- this we were trying to concentrate on what we can do immediately. Since as you know, that would take a longer time. But yeah, I hear you on that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I still feel strongly that we use our funds for these swings.

>> MEG KOGLIN: That you want to purchase them instead of the city?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Yeah.

>> MEG KOGLIN: Okay, we will bring the feedback back to them. I'm very new, I'm two months in, so I cannot answer those types of questions.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: That's fine and I think that that if you would like to use the money for the ten swings because we voted to pay for 20. I'm looking at our treasurer, we would still like to have your assistance with this project that we will be funding.

>> JON: Through the Chair, we are more than happy to speak with our procurement officers and see what possibilities we have for you funding versus us funding it. We are open to allowing you to fund this.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Great, thank you, we appreciate your expertise and knowledge and your presentation with all the parks where there will be swings. I want to make sure that everyone understands, this is a tremendous first-step and that we are all going to be pushing for a whole lot more. Um, and hoping um, to see lots more change in what we are doing for all different types of accessibility needs in the City. But those kids are going to be thrilled. Jesse, is your hand raised? Because you have another question?

>> Jesse: No, sorry about that. I'll put it down.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Do you need anything else from us, at this time? No?

>> MEG KOGLIN: Thank you so much. The conversation was invaluable and hearing what you had to say with the experience on the swings. So, thank you. And thank you for bringing Kenny Park to our attention as well.

>> JON: Thank you very much.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. You're welcome to stay on for a meeting.

>> MEG KOGLIN: I think I'm going to go get dinner. Thank you very much.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Really appreciate it. I'll reach out. We are going to keep moving through our agenda tonight. We have two minutes from the Lynn Disability Commission. From the chair. When we had the flag... a member attended our flag raising. She found it online and wanted to bring her daughter who is a young teenager, to show her to be proud about her disability. And she raced up and made it just before we raised the flag and chatted. And we were exchanging numbers and lost track. But I found out that their meeting was last Tuesday night and I attending theirs. And now we have the pleasure of their Chair who is here tonight. If you want to they hello or introduce yourself. Please do. We are thrilled to have you here.

>> Thank you, Holly. I appreciate you inviting us. My name is Joe, this is Bob. We are members of the Lynn Disability Commission. I'm just recently the new Chair and I'm -- we are trying to get our board um... really up and running. We have been having some difficult, in terms of um... figuring out where we are going to spend our funding. We have um -- we get our funding with the PARKI (sp).

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Same as we do.

>> And um, we get what we get about \$70,000 a year or something like that. To that degree. And so there's really been -- so the reason Holly invited me here tonight and the reason I'm here is what we are trying to do is get some direction and focus on where our board -- what our boards mission statement is and what direction we are going to spend our funding, how to spend it.

So, I have a great learning curve. I've been with moms that have children with autism and I can say, um, you know, it's amazing. So vigilant. Like Louis and I'm not an expert on autism by any means and we had an issue come up on this, you have it on your agenda with the Winnebago. And we couldn't have the projects like this because we didn't have the leadership at the time. Like I said I'm just the Chair now. So tonight I'm really here, me and Bob are here really to learn from you guys. And very impressive. Um...

and I think um... you're going to give us a lot of great ideas. In terms of where we want to go. It's going to take a long time to get to where we want.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: How long have you been the Chair?

>> I've been the interim Chair for um... a month.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You're doing amazing. Because that would be 3 weeks as of last week when I met you. And your form is relatively new because you didn't have enough members too, at quorum. So sort of what can happen in a lot of cities and towns is when you can't meet quorum you can't meet and the Somerville commission went through that at time and we are a large body of 12 seated individuals and so it's always good to see what other people are doing and I invited Joe to the CODA meetings, run by the Mass Office --

>> Disability policy.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Thank you. Disability Policy Consortium and each of the members can go and discuss different topics and provide feedback so Joe is hooked into that. So, he's here to observe and we are all trying to help each other by seeing what we do and we are honored that you made it here.

>> Thank you, really appreciate it, thank you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: And the next item here is Lynnebago. So, the Lynnebago, can someone bring up a picture of it?

>> Speaking through the Chair [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Louis isn't here today. But Louis is a member of the Lynn Disability Commission and part of a splat group that won a grant from the ARC, quite substantial grant and they took that money and purchased a Winnebago and call it the Lynnebago and it's transformed to be sensory friendly. It has a large low to the ground changing table, you can -- it can um, allow for a wheelchair to use a bathroom in there. It has a quiet space, if someone is getting overstimulated at an event. What they do is um, again, it's not... the commission is part of this and what they are doing is they are um, offering different municipalities to pay a fee and the Lynnebago will show up at the venue.

So let's imagine -- where did we table? ARC beat, we hired the Lynnebago to come and they were parked in a certain area and if an individual needed um, to get away in the noise, it can be an adult, a child, anyone, to just get some sensory quiet time, or someone who needed privacy to use the bathroom because over a disability, this physical space would be available to them. So it would pull up to an event. At this time the Lynnebago does not have their final business plans... oh, thank you so much. There is a screen that is showing what the Lynnebago looks like on the outside it has a um... it has items that you can point to. So, if your communication is more based on visual cues, someone can say what they are looking for, which is very helpful for a lot of individuals.

On the back of the Lynnebago is a ramp and it has a covered awning that would help if it was raining and trying to get in and out.

The picture at the bottom has the multisensory room, universal care room and this is what they -- it was over \$200,000, wasn't it? Do you remember, Joe?

>> Joe: Oh, the grant. I believe it was for, I want to say \$50,000.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Oh.

>> Joe: From -- speaking from the um...oh, in ARC.

Okay, that one I'm not sure. I know they have a lot of um... like, they have Eastern bank and other donors: however the ARC, it looks like a trailer. I was confused. The idea of it. Because they didn't have pictures of it when I saw it. It's not quite a Winnebago.

It's more of like a trailer, that is going to be retrofitted for um... sensory perception and um... change and for bathrooms and things of that nature. And we looked into it. A little bit. I was run of the ones that first started to pursue it, and we -- and I'm glad they came here -- they are coming here, because it was just, we had just too much -- going on.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: This is the first time that I'm sharing it with the commission that exists. Once we have information on what it takes for it to be here and you would have to speak to the city about legal matters and things like that. This is something that we might be able to use our funds to provide at certain ECHTs if we felt it was helpful for people with disabilities. I also just thought it was a cool idea.

>> Joe: And I believe they -- their initial start-up is what they were requesting from us, was \$75,000 from our board.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I can't see if anyone has a hand raised. Frank, are you able to go to that computer on the front and take down what is being... displayed so I can see it there. Or is it from Adrienne's?

>> [Off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Let me bring it to you, Harriotte.

[Pause]

>> Okay, I'm moving the camera. And the audio.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: The commission bought a Winnebago and rents it out from there? Or is it a part of ARC?

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: The commission has nothing to do with it. There's a member of the Lynn commission that's part of the separate group.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I understand that.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: And they got a grant from multiple --

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: I understand all that. I'm confused between renting and ownership. Who does it belong to?

>> So, the Lynn disability network.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, it's a non-profit, the Lynn disability network.

>> HARRIOTTE RANVIG: Okay, thank you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, it's mostly baked thing, that one is fully baked and when there's an opportunity we can revisit them again. Any other questions. Can we see if there's a hand raised?

>> There's no hand raised.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, moving on. Thank you, Adrienne, for finding that and displaying that.

So, we have city council updates and I'm going to go over those when we... no, actually I think I'll do them over there. So, the city council um... put in court orders to check on um... the accessibility and um, the elevators in buildings within the city to make sure that things are um... have been well maintained. Specifically the um... the an ex-building where that was being used by us and others for meetings and it's not clear that the elevator is usable. The legislative matters people continue to follow that. Several of us attended the -- actually, one more city council. There was another -- it says resolution, not order.

But the administration facilitate bike parking for a large city event. I spoke with Jake Wilson at an event that was in Gilman in my area and there were bikes everywhere and it was wonderful to see that people took their bikes but didn't provide a safe place for people to leave their bikes. He put in a resolution to see if in the future, as part of um... events where we expect people to come with bikes, that we have bike racks available.

There was... a meeting of the... gender equity... seniors and vulnerable populations where there were some updates. There was two reports. One was an update on the ADA Task Force and one was an update on... um, the invoker. The ADA Task Force is starting to move forward. I know many of us had to give information to Adrienne so that City council could remove that and I'm sure many of you are excited that that will start to get formed soon and we'll be able to start looking at... um... with a broader audience and members here, looking at the current ADA transition plan. Thank you, Adrienne. I know it's taken long time and you've stayed on top of that.

The next thing is White Cane Day is coming up. Um... is it the 11th?

>> The 15th.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: It's the 15th. Okay, so national White Cane Day. I was hoping we could have something put on the um... on social or possibly um... if Adrienne, if we could have the come's taken write something in the next date recognizing it's White Cane Day.

>> [Off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay.

>> But I will check.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Last year Harriotte and I attended White Cane Day at the state house. That was really amazing. I'm not -- I don't know if you're going to attend this year. You're going to go, Joe.

Um, Harriotte, do you want to give an update on collaboration, communication and meetings?

>> [Off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You want to give a brief update on the boss.

>> Before she does, may I say something. My name is Michael Shaps. As you know I'm a Commissioner on the commission for persons with disabilities. I have spent my entire life with um, complex PTSD and when I joined the committee, I've also been a disability advocate for 40 years. And when I joined the -- when I joined this commission, I explained that what I wanted to do was work on mental health issues. And when I started in January, I approached the commission to um... start um... a team of people working with mental health issues. And it -- nothing happened until September when the lead was given to somebody else.

And I spoke up and it was given to me. I spent the entire month working on issues that I think are important to the people of Somerville with regards to mental health. There were two other people on the committee. Um... who you know, were very busy but did their best and what they needed to do. And I am supposed to be on the updates and my -- what I did was going to take at least ten minutes to talk about and I also had things that I needed the disability committee to discuss. And I want to say that I feel very disrespected that it's 10 minutes to 9:00 and we are rushing through this list right now and I'm not going to have the time to do the work that I need to do. We can only do it when there's a quorum. This means that anything that I have to bring up will have to wait until next month, even though a lot of stuff that I'm dealing with is very timely. And um, I just want this committee to know that people with mental health issues are just as important as anybody else and even know this commission does not seem to feel that mental health issues are as important as other things are, which I'm not saying they are not. I'm not saying the swings are not important, I'm not saying our colleagues from Lynn are not important. But I'm saying that people with mental health issue, it is very important that we start talking about it and if this commission cannot be the ones to start, if we are not going to respect the fact that people need help with mental health issues, then we cannot expect anybody else to do that.

So, I am actually right now going to be taking my computer and leaving this meeting, because... I do feel very disrespected that um... we did not have the time to talk about the work that I have done over the past month. Um... for this commission and for the people of Somerville who have mental health concerns. Um... so, I will be back next month.

But um, I want people to know that things have to change if we are going to get things done and get people the services and support they need. Thank you.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Before you [off mic]... recognize what you're saying. I hear that you're upset. I'm sorry that you're feeling that way.

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: And I have every right to have. I know we had 30 minutes, but we spent an hour... an hour on swings. And the swings are important but an hour on swings that we have been discussing every single meeting and the one meeting that I have something to say about the work that I'm supposed to be doing, I was not given the time. I have more than ten minutes, even if -- because after Harriotte went --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Can I finish?

We are not going to stop at 9:00. We could --

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: We are going to stop at 9:00 because that's when I need to leave. This is supposed to be 7:00 to 9:00.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Well, you're --

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: This is disrespect for me. But this is the ignorance. This is the ignorance that it's not important therefore, we don't need to -- we can put it to next month this is what.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I never said that.

>> MICHAEL SHAPS: But that's what the actions are showing me. Because the time was not allotted for people to talk. It was not allotted. People spoke as long as they wanted. There was no time constraints for that hour that we spoke about swings, no time constraints. How can we get all the work done if there are no time constraints? If there's not -- we have this things, Sheila still needs to speak and do her stuff. There's a lot of stuff we need to do. Time should have been made not -- [video froze]

[Live Captioner standing by].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: [Off mic].

[Off mic]

>> NICK: I have sound.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I'm not sure if [off mic] too. Um...

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: You said we have to leave this room at 9:00?

>> So, we have this room in the 9:00. I understand that it got [off mic] because of technical difficulties. But we hope to [off mic] as [off mic] from a liaison perspective, I think when you do have meetings, it's just [off mic]

[Live Captioner standing by]

>> I don't think the audience can hear what is going on.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So we only have this room until 9:00. Michael left. Um, this room is not accessible. The Annex is not accessible and we will have an accessible rotation and we will have ample time. We want to understand other meetings don't have an end time. I know we have had one. But I think going forward we are going to have a meeting that starts at 7:00 with the expectation that we are done at 9:00 but knowing that it may go longer, as the other commissions do within the city.

And um... I'm sorry if anyone else is upset or feels that they were disrespected because that talk ran longer. That was no one's intention and what I wanted to offer to Michael before he left, was that we could absolutely um... call a meeting for next week. We will see when people are available, we need at least 48 hours notice. I'm not sure we will be able to find a location, but we certainly can do it over Zoom because I want Michael and his group to be able to precedent what they worked on. And um... and to go through the rest of the items here. So I'll be sending out something or I may ask people to send me what their availability is next week. And we will have to um... add an additional meeting for this month. Does anyone have any comments or concerns about having an additional meeting so we can make sure that we get lieu the rest of the agenda?

You're sitting next to me, you can raise your hand.

Deborah, would you like to add --

>> Deborah: This is Deborah. I would like to say that until we can find a room that is accessible, could we revert to meeting over Zoom? I feel it's difficult for those of us that can't --

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I can't [off mic] remote. I know that it's even more difficult. I appreciate what you're saying, but there are lots of [off mic] within the city and other rooms that we can use that are accessible. Um, Adrienne, we really need to see that list that the clerk says, that you worked on for all the locations for the meetings that are accessible. Um...

>> Adrienne: I'm fine to share that, I would like to ask based on my own schedule next week, and adding a potential extra meeting, if that's what you have to do, that's what you have to do, that that meeting is remote.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Absolutely.

>> Adrienne: And I'll work on something for the remainder of the calendar year.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Absolutely. And it won't be on a [echoing] and [echoing] [off mic] and we have to have the actual date and time. I will make sure that we have something and we find the time next week and it will be on Zoom.

>> [Off mic] I just wanted to [off mic] on taking the time to come and see what happens at another commission. And I just want to wish you luck. I know [off mic] is a lot of work.

>> Thank you. Thank you for allowing me. Thank you.

>> So, if [off mic] not the special meeting but at the monthly meeting.

>> If we can get an OWL.

>> But the [off mic] has one.

>> It's for [off mic] but it's [off mic].

Can we purchase our own OWL?

>> I really think the city [off mic] we encourage you [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Well, they haven't been able to do that [off mic]

>> What's going to happen is we will get an OWL to use and we will be here. Or we will find a space that has an OWL for November.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: We were told that that OWL... could not be used in this room. That there was an IT issue. So, you're saying --

>> We are trying to solve the IT issue. Because other city departments are meeting for other things, and having the same issue. So if that can't be solved, and I can't say it will or won't because I don't know, then I will find another space that has an OWL. If that makes sense.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: I'm going to --

>> I would love to [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: [Off mic]

>> It's hooked up to our stuff so....

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Also if you think about the OWL and what it needs to be connected to in this large room, it might not have worked.

>> It does need a lot of [off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay. Um, meetings have to be accessible and the meetings can't be accessible in-person, [off mic] have to be done in-person. I'm going to just... put a motion forward that we fund the cost of an OWL and a laptop so that we can conduct our meetings on our own. And um..... [off mic]

>> Well, we --

>> Like a thousand dollars.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, I just... I'm going to put forth a motion that we um... sounds like \$3,000 towards the commission to purchase its own OWL and laptop so we can have the meetings and... if there's any training that needs to be done on how to use the OWL or any other connection software.

>> I second the motion.

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, so Harriotte is a second. Any discussion on this topic?

[Pause]

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: Okay, all that is in favor?

Raise your hands. One two three four five six in the room that are "yes".

Deborah, I see your hand, that's 7. And let's see...

>> [Off mic].

>> HOLLY SIMIONE: So, we have 7 so we still... so motion passes. \$3,000 set aside for an OWL and laptop and any training or software needed so that we can [off mic] for the meetings. I'm going to motion that we adjourn. I'm going to thank everyone who was here. The one that is presented and contributed and everyone that does so much behind the scenes, our RSG staff and um... and especially the City that came today and presented all of their information and that we continue to fund and manage our initiative to put the swings in. With that, all those in favor?

We are adjourned.

[Session Concluded at 8:05 p.m. CST]