

Commissions for persons with disabilities monthly meeting

14 January 2025

Staff Liaison:

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator

Commissioners:

Holly Simone, Chair

Harriotte Ranvig, Vice Chair

Sheila Tracy, Treasurer

Pauline Downing

Helen Corrigan

Murshid Buwembo

Mike Shaps

Ingrid Schneider

Deborah Haber

Associate Commissioners:

Frank Lee

Not Present:

Nick Altschuller (Commissioner)

Laurie Brandt, (Commissioner)

Ginny Alverson (Associate Commissioner)

Guests:

Niki Aurora, ADA Field Associate, Engineering

Brian C. Postlewaite, Director of Engineering

Henry Hardy

Megan Smith

Katelin Firth

CART Provider:

Francisco A. Philibert, Partners Interpreting

The meeting called to order at 7:02 by Holly Simone

Roll call, welcome, Read Agenda: Holly Simone

Treasurer Communications: Sheila Tracy

Brain is working with administrators on new appointments and the appointment process. He is expecting information from Kim Hutter on expected notices and plans.

The commission must devise a plan for all outstanding meeting minutes. There will be a meeting scheduled with the commission to discuss and approve all outstanding meeting minutes.

There is training on January 22nd, 2025, at RSJ to learn to use the brand ambassador.

Communication Plan

Deborah will help the communication group with managing and marketing.

Holly, Harriet, Sheila, and Laura sat down with the mayor to come up with a plan to make the Somerville website more accessible. It is now a regulation to bring the website to a certain standard.

Also discussed having a consultant to assist with making a website for commissioners that aligns with current regulations.

Adrienne updates

MLK event at the east Somerville Community School, January 20th at 11 a.m. – Good Trouble panel discussion

Lunar New Year Event- January 25th, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. at the Somerville High School.

January 28th reports are being released for the PSFA Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and the Anti-Violence working group.

February 4th: Public meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Somerville High School to hear thoughts on reports for community members

Public Spaces and Urban Forestry

Ready to proceed with the next steps of the swings, but the commission needs to vote on the amount to pay for the swings. The budget is 20,000 which includes 10 swings and installation.

Move to vote 20,000 on the Swing project.

9 votes for yes to proceed to use the \$20,000

Education Team

No updates

Legislative Matters

Revising the ordinances using plain language

Scholarship money will fall into the next fiscal year.

2025 goals and projects

Parent workshop- Language access. Making sure people who speak different languages have access to different workshops

Holly will reach out to the school district to get the school-based workshop going.

Nationally disability employment awareness month is something that should be recognized

Rare Disease Day is February 29th, and it is celebrated on February 28th on a non-leap year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Second: Pauline