

SOMERVILLE COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

December 10, 2024

7pm

**Hybrid: Zoom + TAB Conference Room, 167 Holland Street
Meeting Minutes**

Staff Liaison:

Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator

Commissioners:

Holly Simone, Chair

Harriotte Ranvig, Vice Chair

Sheila Tracy, Treasurer

Pauline Downing

Helen Corrigan

Laurie Brandt

Murshid Buwembo

Mike Shaps

Nick Altschuller

Ingrid Schneider

Deborah Haber

Associate Commissioners:

Frank Lee

Not Present:

Brian C. Postlewaite, Director of Engineering (Commissioner)

Ginny Alverson (Associate Commissioner)

Guests:

Niki Aurora, ADA Field Associate, Engineering

CART Provider:

Deb Brown, Partners Interpreting

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Holly Simone

ADA Improvement grant

The City was approved for a 75,350 grant from the Massachusetts Office of Disability. This money is used to hire a consultant to assist with the swing survey and self-evaluation which includes assistance with programs and physical measurements.

Group Reports

Mental Health Team: Looking into a social club for those who've gotten out of drug rehab and mental health programs. Conversations have been made with social clubs in the Boston area to see how they started the social clubs. The plan is to bring these social clubs to Somerville, MA.

Legislative

Advocacy about parking: the minimum ordinance. Members put testimony in writing in opposition to the ordinance. The minimum ordinance was voted out, but the implementation deadline was extended to February 1st. Also, the city council was contacted about updating and changing the ordinances. The ordinance was to eliminate the minimum amount of parking for any new construction spaces.

Education

Report from the Somerville Special Education Parents Advisory Committee

Out of 4400 hundred students in the district, 1000 of those students have a disability. 8 percent of those families responded to the survey. 53 percent of the people are dissatisfied with the services provided in the schools. 1-16-25 The finalization of the report findings of the special education public school services will be completed.

The goal in response to the survey is to develop tools to educate caregivers by developing 501c3 for future funds, initiatives, and educational opportunities.

Finance Report

No expenses this month. The SCPD has a revenue of 6,800

Year-end review

- July is now dedicated to disability pride month
- Hosted a Red Sox game during disability pride month
- Disability flag-raising
- Impacted ordinances
- Scholarships for students

2025 Goals

- Would like to put more emphasis on the blind constituents.
- After-school programs for disabled students in the Somerville School District.

- Improve communication within the commission.
- Social clubs for people getting out of drug rehab and mental health facilities.
- Having an accessible ADA website with a link where people can purchase handicap placards
- Networking and collaboration with neighboring commissions

Motion to Adjourn: Holly Simone

Second: Sheila Tracy

Approved, meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm