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Yes.

>>>: Okay.

So, it is 7:06, and this is the Somerville commission for persons with disabilities, monthly meeting and I'm the chair. Open the meeting. And gavel, and I will take roll call of members that are here. And Mike?

>>>: Here.

>>>: Okay. Kala?

>>>: Pauline.

>>>: And--

>>>: Laurie?

>>>: Here.

>>>: And Deborah?

>>>: Here.

>>>: And Helen?

>>>: Present.

>>>: And Harriotte?

>>>: Here.

>>>: And I'm here. Frank, you are here. And Murshid is trying to connect.

And, hopefully going to be joining us as soon as he's able to.

Thank you for tonight. So we have --

We have a quorum. Which is six.

Six, seven, eight, we have eight. Thank you all for being here tonight.

We need to give the captioner some time to get things set up, thank you to all of you

for being patient. And I will read the agenda. And anyone have any questions? We'll have Harriotte start off with setting the meeting norms. And then we're going to next on the agenda, the review of several meetings' minutes. And then we'll get another update from Harriotte on our monthly meetings for the collaboration and communication and accessibility meetings. And then, we'll talk about terms and Mayoral updates. And, and Laurie will speak about accommodations. And, then we'll have our update on some accessible zoning features and MOD training, feedback from the January meeting. The open space recreation plan and network plan will be discussed as part of the group reports. And then project groups and role membership and resources and communication resources we have an update from Mr. Michael Shaps on his professional for one of the events for, proposal for one of the events of mental health month, we're excited to talk about that. Sheila will give us money talk. And we're going to go through the individual groups, and which has grown exponentially, and good to be able to say that. We have--here with us today. And thank you very much. And where is she from the police force. She is present at our flag meeting. And, we talked briefly there about books. And the work that you do, and I had asked if you wanted to talk about that, I will let Harriotte go first and then I will -- So go ahead, Harriotte.

>>>: Okay.

And I would--I said --

This is a wake up for all of us, because it is something that's always done. So, they are pretty simple, one is to say your name, before you speak.

Please.

Do our level best not to talk over each other and only speak when the chair, I should have said, only speak when someone recognizes a waving hand or give a gesture or thumbs raised hand, listen deeply to each other. And doing our best to sort of connect. As possible, patience is a big demand for all of us, and we have too much to do.

So, reminding anybody I think I may have left out one or two, I know what I was going to say. Please do your best to speak up. Because there are all of us that have a bit of hearing loss. I have to say, can you talk louder and encourage you to raise your hand if you can't hear one of us, it's sad to get half of the meeting. That's both a personal and professional request. Again, did I miss anything?

>>>: The chair -- [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: And....

>>>: Try not to use acronyms.

>>>: Because there are some acronyms it's easy to get lost. Thank you.

>>>: Okay. Why don't you go on item four, CCA or communication and accessibility update [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: I will be here for the whole meeting.

>>>: CCA, they are working on training from RSJ for roster.

It's not yet on the calendar to my knowledge, correct me if I'm wrong. And also, just --

We've been working with people to get things correctly done. One of the things that has yet to be worked out for accessibility is any reports that are relevant to us that we like to know more about, even though they may be summarized by legislative matters. Many of us want to more detail to understand it. When you asked for all reports, it includes maps and all of that stuff. Basically, all that can be done take a PDF change id to Word format and all of --

[Indiscernible by Captioner] so the context is not so good, it's like we need to transform that share that with all the departments. They want to share information with us. I think that's, that's it. Thank you. Thank you, Harriotte.

And I will add to that, about the piece of embossing and the issues that we face over the last several weeks with reviewing minutes. And -- we put when I added the open space and recreation plan and the bicycle network plan, and when you go to strip out all of the --

>>>: That's Frank.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: Hello.

>>>: Good to see you.

>>>: Yes, good to see you.

>>>: Would you mind introducing yourself?

>>>: I'm John --

>>>: Appreciate it very much.

>>>: And we were just discussing -- when certain documents the majority of the information that's contained in them, is visual for a person who is blind, like our two members here, they use Braille, and raised dots for each letter to read things, a standard work for accessible communication, images are no at a timed ALT TEXT or alternative text for us , it describes what is in the picture. And the meaning of the picture.

And so it also kind of ties movement which is called plain language and simplifying things, actually that was something that was brought up through city council, they used plain language on the ordinances moving forward, in order to make things accessible we need top down approach for communication with inside and outside the community all things municipality are these images necessary, if they are how do you describe them with ALT TEXT, so people can still understand what is the important stuff, of what they are representing. When I was in Spain, there was a map that was a 3-D, it was all the legal term in Braille but be you could feel where your paths were. You could feel where tree ranges were, it was someone to talk to you, how it was designed, then you could understand the layout of the physical place that you want to do walk. Trying to find ways that we can start that as a healthy conversation, because it's very hard for us to with these minutes, that we are going through to be able to go back and -- understand the documents. So, we now have

two members here, and I was saying earlier, that we first met at the fundraising we talked about some books, you talked about the work that you were doing in the community, how these types of books were very helpful for the children, and if you would like to share anymore about that, or, that project is --

>>>: That's fine.

>>>: I'm Edna, I'm with the communication affairs unit. We started like a year and a half ago and we have been trying to network with different populations and communities to see how we can better serve them. And we were very instrumental in helping them, because we have been some of the groups that I worked with, there were some kids that were happy about the books that you gave them, it was a way of networking, if we need help with the community, that had any kind of disability, the person to help out and again, to see & in the capacity we would be able to help, we connected to organizations that employees are --

>>>: PL?

>>>: Can you speak more slowly?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: I will, my apologies.

>>>: Yes, so the goal was for us to just start networking with other organizations and see what capacity we want be able to help to bridge that gap between the community and our organization.

>>>: What is the name of the group?

>>>: Community affairs unit.

>>>: And the projects that you are working on?

>>>: So, I will step in, we're kind of having a pause on things. So, I will basically give you liaison between the channel for the department and we're putting back in the patrol. And manpower, so it's going to be more of --

Hopefully as we get more people, we get into the order of things. And so, what we're going to do this seems to be the only --

Location that takes adult autistic people and helps them Greg into the community helps them with projects through the college's other places --

To help with communication. That was a huge thing. They were there for us.

Normally the city and the schools do it for children through high school.

>>>: They fall off the cliff, for some people goes to 25. And it's --

Services I'm referring to.

>>>: This is a great find.

>>>: There is a lot of amazing work that's being done -- places where we need more, we need more operating systems, so that adults with different types of disabilities can go to school, can have jobs. And can live their full potential. So, we talked about your situation a little bit sometimes, where those books are helpful for different children or families that are going through things. So, we bought over 400 books that we distributed last month of May into the summer, summer events.

July. Sorry.



And I know that when we talk about funding those again, we'll reach out to see if there are a few topics for other things if you would like to be able to provide those tools to you, if they are helpful. We have our fund things that serve the community and help persons with disabilities, are the reason that we do this. And anything that we can help with.

>>>: So, moving forward. Our department is shortly staffed, we'll be back on patrol and be as involved as we can, in whatever ways we can, we are hoping as soon as we have more bodies, we'll do this again.

>>>: But you know how to reach me and us.

[Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: And, at the community meetings.

>>>: [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: A whole bunch of --

>>>: I do, the meeting I left was the data square. I was trying to figure out something to promote the month of April for the meeting.

We greatly appreciate all the work that you do. Thank you for coming tonight.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: We're going to move on to member term number five, and update from the commission and boards.

Everyone who sends a report terms and Mayor updates. When you send a report of when your terms were, where you sit now,

[Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: Okay.

>>>: All right. Thank you, Adrienne, for sending that.

Your person didn't have the dates of the this was before this has the dates when people are sworn in. And I also noticed that Sheila has --

[Indiscernible by Captioner] in a year.

>>>: I could ask the post office but that's when it was sent.

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: I'm sorry, I'm sure the typo was obvious to me, for my records.

>>>: It says she was appointed in 2021, instead of 2023.

>>>: Oh.

>>>: Different year.

>>>: Two years.

>>>: The -- it was a slot there.

>>>: Date of current appointment. January 22, it's under 14, 2020. It should be December 14, 2023, at the same time.

>>>: Correct.

>>>: Okay. So, right now we have one, two, three, four, five members, whose terms have ended. And the commission reviews members to see if they would like to be reappointed for another term or if they prefer not to. You have your hand up. Deborah. You want to ask your question first.

>>>: Um, yes, this is Deborah.

I have also my term is it has my start date as 2021. And but I didn't start until 2023 which I was confused by the way this is set up because then the columns have dates first appointment 2023.

>>>: So, the Sheila typo is in the second to last column, which would be fixed and the way the terms start -- you people that put into slots that exist, that have to be completed. So, it doesn't start, you don't get a full three-years. For each person.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: That is not a --

It's not my favorite thing. But it is put that way so that we don't have 13 people all expiring in the same month.

>>>: Okay. The other thing was it lists me as a family of person, person with disabilities, rather than person with disabilities.

>>>: So, as the chair I was not shown this where people were put into slots. And when you started that was the slot that you were put into. And if you would like to, if you are interested in going for another term, we would also ask that you be removed if you would like that to be change.

>>>: Okay, since my situation has changed, I no longer have a family member with disability.

>>>: I understand.

>>>: You still have the knowledge?

>>>: Yes

>>>: Um.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Pauline.

>>>: I never received a copy of that report. We never got that.

[Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: Yeah.

>>>: Your date let me read it to you. For Pauline, who you were appointed on February 23, 2023, it is the same day as Harriotte. And your term began on January 1 of 2023. And end on December 31 of 2025.

>>>: Okay. So you ha. not expired yet in your term. Or any other way.

[LAUGHTER]

>>>: Okay.

>>>: So, from the time that I have been a part of the commission, looking at terms was always something they said in renewing people. And something they were putting off now they have started to look at that. Normally we would be tracking who is coming up soon, discussing if they would like to be reappointed, we as a commission vote and we then send a letter to the mayor of our recommendations. And, so, we need to do that tonight. So that our mayor has that information in front of her, when she decides what she would like to do with the person --  
There are five of us -- anyone have any questions?

>>>: Sorry, hi, Michael.

>>>: Um, this is Michael. I am wondering if we have, if there are any requirements that we have a certain amount of people with disabilities, a certain amount of family of persons with disabilities with community, and kind of requirements like that?

>>>: In our bylaws we have to have 51% of majority, of the members must represent a disability. People with disabilities.

The other ten, but they are not required. It is important that we have people with diverse backgrounds, and with diverse experiences. And that is the goal of not only the commission of course of the mayor that we have lots of different folks on the commission and the board. That would be better representing the community that we live in.

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: Sure.

>>>: The bylaws there must be--has to be one slot for a family of a person with a disability. And there needs to be one slot for elected or appointed officials which is currently vacant, then, the remainder of the majority would be people who have disabilities.

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: And go ahead, Michael? Sorry about that. So we have to be cognitive of the idea that one person has to be a family member, then my second question is whether we have any other limits on how long someone can be on the committee? On the

commission?

>>>: So, our terms are three-years. And our bylaws say that people can be appointed for two-years, but we all sit at the choice of our mayor. Who decides the appointment, and confirmed by the city council, then sworn in after that, so city council and the mayor make all of those decisions on all the boards and commissions.

>>>: So, there is nothing to say that honestly somebody could be on the commission forever if it works out that way.

>>>: So, the commission, can stay longer it is a hard job it's hard to fill. But they can also be turned over anytime that the appointment is done, we serve as the will of the mayor. They get to choose how that works. Now there have been chairs and other members of other commissions and boards across the city and in many cities and towns, that have been in their positions for four, ten, 20 years. And, again, that is the discretion of the mayor. So with that what we're going to do is Harriotte, Deborah, and Sheila and myself and Nick is not here. And Harriotte, would you like to go for another term?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: State to the group why you would like to do that.

>>>: Sure, thank you.

>>>: Very much to be on the commission. Because both professionally and occasionally in my personal life, I am disabled have disabled family members and

friends. So, I'm very aware of this is not built to support automatically any disability. And I just love working on projects regardless of how bad they may be, they may be anything or whatever obstacles we encounter. I think I have a curious mind for understanding and researching all of the related to issues with disability. Which really applies to all of us, in a milder, more visible way each of us has more to learn about communication and how to communicate well. So that can spread throughout the community. And hopefully, that would leave the community, shall we -- disabilities that aren't disabilities, to check I know something, I know all about people in a wheelchair, I do not -- so yes. I would really like to serve again. And participate, I'm sure like to serve in the city of Somerville.

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: Thank you, I'm glad that you joined us, your hand is raised. You have a question?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: I guess I want to do know if my time is due or ready to expire?

>>>: Let me update you. You were first appointed in December, December 14 of 2023, and you and Nick and Michael and Helen, and Sheila all of you did that the same day. And your term started on January 1 of 2023. And it ends on December 31 of 2025, so you are still within your first term.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: It's six.

>>>: Yeah, but I wanted to ask, I don't know whether it's possible. Why is it like tons of people that are supposed to start with the council has a limitation. In a sense, I'm sensing in a way that much of like government and everyone is working so hard including Adrienne office. For to see disability has been mitigated or no more. That means every time that goes by, the number of people with disabilities that can be able to form them all maybe community keeps on shrinking. But, people that are like residents of Somerville, attends remain as persons with disabilities and we would love to serve on the council, if there are limitation, you can find that's one of the reasons as to why at times they are like positions that are not covered. If I told you it was extended, so long persons with disabilities, and are living within our residents of Somerville, why is that we have to account that a limit takes of people serving under two terms and say lose them, then you lose experience. And experts. I am asking, or maybe I'm calling for an amendment to that.

>>>: Okay. What were you recommending?

>>>: I think there should not be terms. There should be limits so long people are willing to be on the commission. And we're we don't have enough numbers maybe if there are residents maybe number of people that have never served on the commission, and maybe others that -- maybe I don't know how to put it right. For example, there is a time when people are going away because they are served two times which is the limit. And we have no people to replace them.

>>>: So.



>>>: My amendment would be lifting of the limits of the term limits. If there has been an amendment.

>>>: You are proposing that we change the three-year terms to not.

>>>: At least four. At least four.

>>>: So, extend it to four-year terms.

>>>: Yeah.

>>>: Because it gives more other time to learn how things run.

>>>: I will. Harriotte has her hand raised.

>>>: Madam Chair. I don't remember what I was going to say. I think that the responsibility of appointment and re-appointment is written into the city charter. If I'm remembering correctly. Which is why we can work on amendments. I'm not sure if it's actually the charter of the city, I'm not Schur procedurally how that works.

>>>: Well, we have separate bylaws because we're created by Massachusetts statute, the majority of other commissions are actually created by city ordinance. So, we could -- discuss amending our terms to four-years, they used to be two, and we changed them to three. Hold on.

What are you saying?

>>>: Describe it as three-year term.

>>>: I think it's always been that.

>>>: The commission [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: Okay.

>>>: This is part of the statute that lazy out lays out the membership and the majority of said commission, I'm sorry, term of the first members commission shall be one, two three-years, it's a staggered term, so not everybody at the same time, that's why the newer term, my term expired in December. Because I was only one year, because some are two and some are three.

So, the person, one two three, so arranges the term of one-third of the members expires and the terms of three-years each. So the statute tells us that the three-year term. This is the bylaws. I don't know if it -- sorry. Can I say something?

>>>: Go ahead.

>>>: I don't know if we can change this from the statute. It doesn't address how many terms you can have. So maybe that's where there might be something that we could try to change. In the process.

>>>: I was looking at the power of situation that are set up, part one title 7, title., title --

Title 12--sorry, chapter, and the commission power to these members and terms.

And, not have less than five no more than 13, they are appointed by the mayor, and they are subject to the city provisions subject to the city charter and., then --

By the city select. Again, this is where it talks about the majority of the members, who shall be persons with disabilities, one should be a member and person in one, elected or appointed official of that city or term. It does talk about the staggering-- any member of said commission may ask for a public hearing, or to be removed by

the authority of vacancy than by expiration for a term by a term in the same manner as the original. That's confusing.

>>>: Okay. Said commission can repeatedly receive this. I do not think that we can --make the more than three-years this is pretty much --

>>>: It's three-years.

>>>: Okay.

But I do understand what you are saying.

>>>: What?

>>>: I agree with what you are saying. But it appears that the statute--they are three-year terms.

>>>: No, I'm not asked to change. I am not saying that we can change as members of the commission. But I think if we raise this as a matter that can be made, people can be promoted by the city council or other members. To change the laws.

Because, for me I'm looking at, you will find the term it's been a struggle for having a full commission. But one of the reasons is that with advancement, rehabilitation and everything, you will find you don't have as many persons with disabilities as you wish maybe would sit with the commission could have. So, I think for me, I don't know how it works here. But I think the council and other members of the council can make an amendment if you raise this concern. Justify, and I'm not saying ask the commission to extend the time.

>>>: Okay. Thank you. Michael you have your hand raids.

>>>: I do. This is Michael. And, through the chair I would like to give a counter point, I think it's a privilege to be on the commission. I think it's something to be able to of service to people for the city of Somerville. I think it's an amazing thing. And I think if we were to be kind of you to know about this thing forever or you know the terms were longer, I think it would take away from other people that wanted to be on it. So, I think there should be a limit. I think there should be an announcement that there are going to be openings if you would like to join, please let us know, I think we need to get as many different people as many different ideas as many different thoughts as we can. Through this committee, so that's just my counterpoint as to what I would see happening.

>>>: Thank you, Mike Michael, I appreciate that. We're going to go back I want to check with Deborah. Deborah, would you also like to be put forward for another term by the commission?

>>>: Yes, I would. I find it very meaningful as somebody who doesn't work anymore to be able to be engaged with my community. And to bring my experiences to representing people with chronic illness, and family members somebody with neuro divergence and having, mobility issues as well.

>>>: Okay. Thank you, Deborah. I appreciate your work also. Sheila?

>>>: Would you like to do another term?

>>>: I would like to. I've only been on the commission for a year, we have done a lot of good work. I have been happy to work on the finances and I would like to

continue with that. We have event and programs, this year, and we all been involved in so many different things I think I want to continue that work also the programming that we have doing, yes, I would appreciate it.

>>>: Interesting work.

>>>: Next up is myself. My term I guess expired by 2022. I would like to be on the commission, and I have enjoyed increasing it from the seven members that we had to almost 13 seats that we have now. Put it into the bylaws. I think that we have a great group of people who are very honest with each other. And we're not afraid to speak our truth even if there isn't an agreement with someone else and I feel this is a safe place to do that. I think that having people working in our groups now really is allowing us to do a lot more. And bringing those groups back into the meeting monthly to go over where we stand on matters of mental health, legislative practice, and education, and accessible websites, and communication, and social events. That's a huge change from when I first joined this group when did I join? July 8 of 2021. I didn't serve that full term either, but it's been --

Nick is not here.

So, we have been discussing it with Nick at our next meeting. I will open it up for any discussions. I would like to propose that we vote to have the four people who would like to serve another term be voted on by the commission. What that would do is I will send a letter to the mayor. And stating that we have forward and had discussed with the four members who are present tonight that would like to be

considered for another term we as a commission are commission are in support of that, this is the mayor, all mayoral appointments and the mayor will decide what to do from there. Can you bring up a motion?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: [Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: Okay. I want to see if anybody has any questions about what we are doing, we as a group haven't done this before.

This is only done once I started, this was for Brian and who was the member of the term needed to be up for renewal. Any questions? So I will put forth a vote. Of all those in favor I have to do it as roll call. To accept the approval of the four members whose terms have ended to be considered for another term.

I need to call roll. Michael.

>>>: Aye.

>>>: Okay. Sheila?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Murshid?

>>>: Yes, you're muted.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Pauline?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Laurie?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Deborah?

>>>: Aye.

>>>: Okay. Helen?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Harriotte?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And I will abstain from voting. We have all ayes, and one abstain, so the vote passes. I will send a letter as the chair representing the commission tonight, and there are four people who are interested that we would like to put forth for her consideration for the next terms.

I will also include the changes with the dates and ask that when they are considering people, I know that is a time when they can put them on a different date, but looking at it well there is one for one-

[MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: You have questions?

>>>: Reach out to you.

There is a place that's written that --

-- in 2025. The commission.

>>>: So, I was looking at the dates. They set these years up so that everybody doesn't expire at once, part of that was also that we would consistently have members and people who are interested ready to fill into slots as they became available. But we have a rule in the bylaws. If a member is not chosen to be reappointed, they can stay in their seat until a person is sworn in to take their seat over. Because we did not want to ever have 7 people term out and wait for new people to be found. So, anyone whose term is ending, who may not be offered a renewal, they do not, choose to stay in their seat until all 13 slots.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Not just a particular slot, but signed in.

>>>: Okay. So.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: I think I'm hearing the deal if my term expires, the way we effected and commission, is to in a sense have an open, and application of interest in this, and if you have any vacancies so the question is currently has one year of expiring will stay there until the next person is appointed for that seat.

>>>: It's been asked that we are actively looking for members. That we kept open.

>>>: I would like to address the chair, currently that's not the practice. And its practice as a commission, would like to encourage in whatever ways we can.

>>>: I would agree that we would like that to happen. I don't think a member



would disagree, we don't want, we should be always actively recruiting for new members, but I think it's very important that we are also actively recruit for associate members, when an associate member does not go through an appointment with the Mayor, they go through a process with us. And we can have as many soccer members we can have, the only difference as an associate member they don't have voting rights they come to meetings they participate in the groups. And another practice with the commission is that associated members--

[Indiscernible by Captioner] should they become a voting member.

>>>: I don't think the commission would be the same without them.

For an associate member.

>>>: If you don't need us, thank you for having us and again, stay in touch with us and we'll still try to figure this out.

>>>: If there is anything that the commission can help with, let us know, or any feedback or improvement or ideas or anything, we're here.

>>>: Thank you so much. It was a pleasure meeting you.

>>>: Thank you. [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: Bye.

>>>: Bye. If there are any other discussions that we have about this item on another term update....

>>>: Yes, I want to do a proposal motion.

>>>: Can you speak up?

>>>: I said, is it possible for the discussion, you can make a proposal, I can make a proposal for motion conditionally that this term commission is wants to move in that direction with support in that direction.

Now to the --

>>>: Well, let's open it up for discussion if anyone has any thoughts about what Harriotte is saying. You were talking about giving me one second, Michael. You were talking about us wanting to have our seats and in the future members posting available, for members and for associates members. And that is something that we remain open, is that we want to encourage people to come in and participate in the meeting. We heard and --

[Indiscernible by Captioner] I would be in favor of being an associate member.

And I don't know if the poll is, would like to --

Say anything about that. But, Nicole has her hand raised and she's on mute.

>>>: Hi, sorry. Yes, I wanted to say, yes, I'm interested if you all would have me.

[LAUGHTER].

>>>: We just took a segue there, is that okay Harriotte?

>>>: Nicole, you come to the meetings and the bylaws, like our associate members to come to multiple meetings. And if you would like to join us, if you would like to briefly share why you would like to be part of the commission. Before we take a vote.

>>>: Yes. Sorry I wasn't --Planning on this.

I wasn't planning on this I want to say that yeah, I really wasn't sorry -- caught me off guard here, no this is a good thing. At the library event, what was that? The West Somerville library event that we had, yeah in early summer. I got the chance to meet you all, I had a really big impact on my daughter, and I am just very impress that the work that you do. And I am just really happy that the commission exists. And yeah, I'm, I would love to be part of the events. And to just, make everything happen. So, yeah.

>>>: Anyone have any questions for miscellaneous Nicole?

>>>: Harriotte?

>>>: The question before we move forward, may we make a motion if you are interested in being an associate member of the commission.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: Make a motion?

>>>: We just did.

>>>: We made a motion.

>>>: Okay.

[LAUGHTER]

>>>: I mean, just a moment--I was just trying to clarify that you understood that for your interest in whatever it is, your participation already been, would you be willing to be an associate member of the commission?

>>>: Yes. For sure. For sure, to clarify what I think I would like to, I think there was some mention of like some --

Awareness days, some events that will be coming up and I would love to be a part of those. And yeah. Yeah, yeah, my interest is definitely there to answer the question.

>>>: I would like to make a motion that the commission vote for Nicole, to be the associate member.

>>>: I second.

>>>: Hold on one second.

>>>: Helen, can I ask you a question. Helen?

>>>: Yes, I was trying to second a motion.

>>>: Oh.

>>>: You had a question for me?

>>>: It's a parliamentary question, can my vice-chair make a motion, or does it have to come from a chair?

>>>: Well of course.

>>>: Anybody, any member of commission.

>>>: Anybody can make a motion.

>>>: I wanted to make sure that we had all of our buttons tied and our thoughts on so excited I will second your motion. Sorry, we have a second. All of those in favor, do a roll call to officially welcome Nicole as an associate member for the

commission for persons with disabilities, Michael, how do you vote?

>>>: Aye.

>>>: Sheila?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Murshid?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And, Pauline?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Laurie?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Deborah.

>>>: Aye.

>>>: And Helen?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Harriotte?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And yes.

>>>: The motion passes. Welcome Nicole Cannon.

[APPLAUSE].

Michael, you have your hand raised earlier. We went in another direction, please forgive me.

>>>: No, this is Michael. I was going to repeat the question, which you did very efficiently, thank you.

>>>: You're very welcome, thank you. Laurie you have been extremely patient today, thank you for wanting to share some information about our accommodation.

>>>: Yeah.

>>>: This is Laurie. And thank you very much for letting me speak. And, this is about reasonable accommodation I'm still learning even though I am a persons with disabilities. And I learned something in the group. This group, and so I think it's a teachable moment for all of us including me. So, I'm passing it on to you y'all. It's about reasonable accommodation within these meetings. This all started when I had a change in my health. I had surgery at the beginning of November. And since then, I have been in a lot of pain. And I have been sleeping a lot. So, sometimes we need to request reasonable accommodation, you know, for each other and the mistake I made was that I requested a reasonable accommodation and I didn't explain why. And I said, this was about, you know, November, December. After my surgery and I said, I will be washing my dishes and if you know, distract anyone please let me know. And. I made a mistake, I didn't say I'm requesting this as reasonable accommodation because since surgery, I sleep a lot. And I hardly have any hours. I sleep 14 hours a night because of pain, all of my chores accumulate in the dishes pileup. And these are two-hours that I can't spare, just sitting with my hands free, I have two-hours of dishes to wash. So, I'm requesting reasonable

accommodation so that I wash the dishes and if it distracts anyone, please let me know, that was my mistake and the other thing I deny saying is I have post-traumatic stress disorder. And. I said, if it distracts you, please let me know, what I found out was that some people were distracted I can understand that. Also, other people -- thought I wasn't paying attention to them or wasn't listening carefully or didn't take the contents of the meeting seriously. Or how coy concentrate when I'm washing dishes at the same time? Which are reasonable thoughts. And, so this is the educational teaching moment that with PTSD the way it acts with me, if my hands are still, I get anxious. In fact, if I move my hands or legs or whatever I can focus better on, I can pay better attention, so it's not like that I'm not paying attention. Because I'm moving my hands unlike most other people but I'm paying better attention, and I am taking people seriously. And I am listening closely. And I think it is important.

So, I discussed this with some teacher friends. They said, this is not just a psychiatric issue, this is also a cognitive issue. And like, some people with autism, and or some people with attention deficit and hyperactivity. They need to be moving to learn to focus. And she said, in fact, in the back of the classroom they'll have like -- walking, you know, whatever you call it -- whatever those Scandinavian walking machines exercise bicycles or physical injury its things so that the student can focus better. So, that's just like an educational thing for all of you. And that is just because someone is moving their hands, it doesn't mean they are not paying

attention. So, the reason this all got sort of like -- magnified for me was that I kept hearing please show your face during the meeting. It's really important to show your face. We really encourage you to show your face that we feel connected, and we know who you are. Then you know how they are trying to juggle three things at once, of course if you can't that's okay, too. Poor Halie. So, I was airing on the side of showing my face instead of hearing that subtext like but if you can't, don't. So maybe it would be just better if I didn't, but then I heard no, it's legal -- legal issues like for we're supposed to be in the same room.

So, since Zoom, at least show your face it's legal, I don't know, legal requirement. Then I heard, but if you can't don't show your face then I heard some people are hard-of-hearing. And they need to lip read so show your face. I'm thinking what started just like my issue became like -- we maybe at some point we need to reasonably change the rules for what is reasonable accommodation on Zoom, not just for me, having to move my hands and someone that's hard of hearing that could be a project that we could take on, so that any community that's using Zoom will be more friendly to persons with disabilities. So, let's see. I think that's it. Are there any questions or comments?

>>>: I wanted to thank you, Laurie, for sharing that with all of us. I hope you feel comfortable that we all love you and want you here, and we want you to be present. And I think that it's hard for us to function when we talked about it a little bit if you were to envision us without Zoom in person, with city council we wouldn't be able to



do some of the things that you would say, I will wash the dishes or do this.

>>>: Yeah.

>>>: And so, that's always the fixed idea of being in, in person meetings. In hybrid it's very important that everyone keeps their camera on, people are not texting to each other, there isn't someone else in the room that's influencing what's happening. We shouldn't be texting while we are sitting here either. But there are moments when one of us needs to use the restroom. Or something happens and you need to take your camera off you just raise your hand and say I will be right back, you shut your camera off you go on mute, but it is appreciated that all of us are physical present when we can and are listening to each other, because it does help me and others in the closed captioning. But being our members, we have unique needs. We embrace the fact that we all have these differences. So in order to accommodate that, it's Laurie explaining what she thinks is a concern and not understood, now I hope everyone understand and I hope you feel supportive, Laurie, and that, this is an accommodation, and you don't need to say can I have an accommodation because I need to do this. But I understand it is an accommodation. Because you need to be able to be busy, but you are paying attention. You are on the camera, and you are present.

>>>: You look confused.

>>>: I thank you for that. I do know that I'm welcome. Thank you very much. The I disagree with you on just one piece.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: That you don't have to explain that you are having a reasonable accommodation. Since I didn't, a few people were quite concerned that I wasn't paying attention to it that I didn't take it seriously that I didn't treat people with respect. I think it, facilitates communication if you explain why you are taking the reasonable accommodation.

>>>: I only mentioned you don't need to continually ask for an accommodation, that's what I meant.

>>>: Okay [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: Thank you for explaining the situation. And glad that you can participate in a way that works for you. And I would --

[Indiscernible by Captioner]. A few reminders

>>>: Thank you. Okay. And I appreciate your generosity around that. So, the one piece you didn't address was that some people did find it distracting and that's not about reasonable accommodation, that's, that's their reasonable accommodation.

>>>: That was a perception, without knowing that it was something that you were asking for --not sure how to say this. Most bodies never do not ask to do things like that during the meeting. And it did not occur to me, that is why you may be asking for that. But now I understand after we spoke, why it is something that you need, and we all understand where that's coming from. So that's why initially it was, I was uncertain how to answer when you asked if it was okay if you were going to be

doing something -- while we're meeting. So no way meant to offend you and or didn't mean to offend anyone, I know when we talked I thought it was important that you had the opportunity to talk with us and that we all understand that this isn't just what Laurie need this is what other people might need in the future or other people that comes to events. It's a lot of disabilities that are hidden, and it can be people can't understand that that's part of that.

>>>: Exactly, thank you very much.

>>>: Thank you. Michael?

>>>: Yes. This is Michael.

You know, I'm actually very appreciative of this conversation. And because when I had my melt down, I actual have a lot of shame over that I have a lot of, no I appreciate it, and you are one of the most sensitive people I know, you would tell me not to feel that way, because of what I have been through, I have that shame. And here's the thing I think what I'm getting out of this conversation is the most unique group of people that I have ever worked with where you know, we can never know what's going on with somebody. We can never really understand even if we have our own disability what other people are going through. And it's all about acceptance about accepting the fact that we trust each other, and that we know each other, and have each other's back. And you know, you and Harriotte were both very supportive of me. When I went through that. That is one of the reasons that I'm actually staying, stay home because I have so much anxiety in my body, that it is

very difficult for me to be in person. Or else I would be there. And I just want that to happen again, but my point is I'm very appreciative of the vulnerability that Laurie opened up about, and shared. Just it's all about knowing that we're doing our best. So, I just appreciate this conversation. Thank you.

>>>: I would like to thank Harriotte for trying to understand and accommodate and speak with Laurie. These are hard things to talk about. I know that everyone here does it with goodness. And I really appreciate all the work that you do, Harriotte.

>>>: Thank you.

>>>: Thank you for that.

>>>: Okay. So now that we all love each other, we have a lot more stuff here. And we have a new member. Okay.

There is a letter that we wrote to the city council still and the land use committee about the parking minimum amendment, that did actual pass, however I really was so proud of our letter that we wrote, and of the many people who wrote additional letters X who testified, in person. And, it was interesting also, my feeling we should not take away all parking, I think that we should always allow accessible parking. Whether or not there are 500 parking spaces or 200 parking spaces, that's not my concern, my concern is that there are always accessible spaces for accessibility that fits, speaking that's my personal feeling. But, what I did, what the legislative matters group did, which is myself and Helen and Sheila, and now we have a new member---is we went back and, we looked alternate quite cumbersome,

trying to find materials of permanence, and what was decided and what was presented. Tracking 249917 is not something that forever, to execute. And. How did we land on this.? This past --

Evidence, however, there was one member of the city council that was present but not present from when the vote was taken, but all the members did agree to this.

What I found really interesting was that the --

>>>: Excuse me, chair.

We voted on that

[Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: Minimizing the parking situation.

And you are describing....

[Indiscernible by Captioner]. At the city council meeting. One of the council people was there at that moment.

>>>: That's correct they did not vote yeah or nay. But the other members who were present at the meeting and roll call was taken, and did vote in favor. It passed. Was did this seem right?

>>>: Can the chair --

You were saying even person wasn't present they presented the information and also the --

>>>: How city council works just like here if you need to step out for a moment, for whatever reason, they system still has to have a quorum in the room to conduct

business, if someone needs to take a break for a moment, or step out, this happen to miss a vote, as long as they still have a quorum, they can do that. I don't remember the exact number of members that were there. It's all of the 11 voting members of the city council were present, but I know that one member was not in the room when they took the roll call and could not vote, the remaining members all passed. So, there was no one technically who was not there. Sorry about that. What I found there was a letter from that meeting, that meeting [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS].

>>>: So October 16, that we wrote the letter, that was for the post hearing. It was another meeting say in November, where they discussed it was not public, could not speak.

>>>: They didn't.

>>>: Then it was later voted in December.

>>>: On the fifth.

>>>: Okay. So, the planning board also submitted a letter, and it was dated December 2. And I found it to be very interesting what they wrote. I had no idea that this even existed.

It's hard to follow that just the way the system is, it's not set up for this. It's very hard for me to find that. But it said that the board strongly grease from the planning board letter of December 2. The board delivered --Okay.

In keeping with the lawful responsibility the central planning board submits to the city council if recommendation on the following proposed amendment, on

October 17 at 6:30 the planning board and the city council advertise fortunately virtual joint public hearing, the purpose was to solicit public comment on the proposed amendment to evaluate the proposal in the context of testimony received in the findings and analysis of staff to the planning board. On November 24, 21, and the boarding convened the regular scheduled meeting to discuss the following agenda items which is -- the ordinance of 244197, to eliminate parking minimums. Board strongly -- the motion was second unanimously passed with the following was discussed, so the board did agree in favor of no max parking minimums. However the board strongly recommended that amendment affected the being delayed until city staff have had time to find permission reimburse and say administrator procedures to ensure the needs of elderly and other residents are taken into consideration as projects are being permanent, the board recommend that the amendment parking maximum be reconsidered rather than simply making the current minimum to a maximum, to acknowledge that we are -- the on developers to determine how much parking is needed and the board recommended that The City undertake a more comprehensive review of existing parking regulation in order to manage the number of new units could be built with onsite parking and the impact issuing unlimited street parking stickers for the unit, the board recommended that The City consider the variety of strategies and including a potential sticker ban on any, and units citywide and with the number stickers issued per unit for building for vehicles registered those people are currently I didn't believe and the board

emphasized that are wide varieties of people with mobility impairments in the community beyond those who may be eligible for an amount DA plaque for parking waiver. So, I thought that was, ADA, which was a lovely letter to read. I wanted to make sure that everyone knew that piece was part of the record, however, February 1 has come and begun. And I have not heard how they are rolling this out. But, I have been in contact with -- city council, and the plan is that they'll be discussing how to, how to make changes that will make sure that the persons with disabilities can have access to parking, whether that ends up being another change to this what's in the now, or process outside of that. One thing that was said during the meeting is --

Is that --

Okay, it was about Brad Roth recommended that the parking demonstrate issues on street resident passes there is a process that with some units and eligibility for parking. There are also extensions for other parking and other special needs, requesting that the update on that policy for the next meeting and. They also ask for information about the ADA exception, and it was, there are applications available on the website with additional information. And, they asked the plan board chair, also asked the number of people that were distributing this and over the past five years how this has channeled. What they are mentioned here, we are all aware that through the ADA coordinator, you can go online and fill out an application to have a resident spot on your street converted to an accessible resident spot. However, as



many of us know we're looking at the new buildings that may or may not be built, there isn't existing resident spot on that street. To convert to resident accessible spots. Also, maybe part of the discussion is how they can be flushed out, there is some equity in, in here. As we raise the concern as a commission, that for fair housing, circumvent the ADA because the ADA does the need based on the how many spots there are to be accessible, fair housing says that five percent of all units must be fully ADA wheelchair accessible units, and if you go up against the ADA it only accounts for the total parking spots in the whole building how many of them have to be ADA spots, it could cause patrols for people, I know that our city council are interested in engaging with us and talking through this and see how to find some solutions.

One thing that was shown during the meeting but was not in view to those that were watching was some data on how many different buildings and how much parking was in them. So I would like that we ask to see some of the information. Just so that -- the commission can also understand what was shared and how those decisions were made. Because it was attached--that I could find. So, I will give, I can ask the clerk or how I can go about getting some of that information since it was a Public Meeting even though we weren't able to give feedback during that. Anyone have any questions? Harriotte?

>>>: I would love to hear there from other places too. I have two questions, one

is the fair housing question. Which should be overriding. And with the five percent, whatever has to be done. My question is also, standing beyond that, can we get a list of how many spots are going to be removed for the sake of bicycles. That's something I don't understand.

[Indiscernible by Captioner] that's preparation, and I -- how it was brought up -- Just haven't been able to clear that up with them someone said there needs to be a parking spot when you are near the union square. Or can we just move you to a spot

[Indiscernible by Captioner]. Which makes longer, rolling distance too many of us, for too many of us. I wanted to bring that up. I feel we can do it.

>>>: Harriotte, I will shift to item number 8 for now. My colleagues have been very patient, and they appreciate that. Michael has secured a speaker. We have quote and invoice I believe that is the only process associated with that event. Michael?

>>>: If you want to talk about it at all, but well need to vote to approve allocating money for that invoice, so you can secure that person. Michael, would you like to share some information, thank you for doing all of that legwork. Very appreciative of that.

>>>: This is Michael. So, this is a, it is a Zoom workshop. It's going to be 630-8 and the first Wednesday of May. Which again May is mental health month. The speaker is--his name is Christopher Willard. And I have worked with

Christopher, I have taken a number of his classes. And number of his workshops. I actually attended one of his workshops. And he's a speaker where he brings mindfulness and meditation ideas into, into mental health, computer, stop. He's going to be bringing that, talking about anxiety and, PTSD any kind of mental health disability. And relate that the first half is going to be for adults. And the second half is going to be about kids. It's not going to be for kids per se, but it's going to be for the adults that have kids, kids are more than welcome to come he has a very neutral, you know, way of presenting. Do you want me to go into the specifics of them or is that something you want to do?

>>>: It's \$1,500, it's an hour, Wednesday May 5. And, I know, we have Zoom piece all set up [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: The interpreters will also be I have to talk to the city and make sure they can do it as well because the day may change, yes, we have all of the specifics set into place.

>>>: I'm curious what Zoom account you're using.

>>>: Michael, what Zoom account had you discussed using?

>>>: Well, Adrienne, I believe we talked about the RSV.

>>>: Certainly. I want to make sure that that's probably will be fine. With that said, seeing the interpretation, Michael as a reminder when you are ready to do that, I think there is a form that has to be filled out for soya, we can do that together.

>>>: Is that me or does the chair have to do that?

>>>: Um, I could do it on behalf of the commission as liaison, I think Meredith prefer that, I just need information so I will look at it this week to know what they need.

>>>: Excellent, thank you, Adrienne.

>>>: Okay. So, what is that? Is that making a request for interpretation?

>>>: Yes. Michael, if you don't mind, I will talk a little bit about our meeting with Meredith. So, very much like when somebody makes an ADA accommodation request, city comes to me we work through the best way with that. And soya is very intentional with how they set up interpretation, so an event may not merit having interpreter for every language, because you may not have people who are in need of that, and as I'm sure we can understand that's not efficient use of resources. So really sitting I can't preference as this event develops, that you all, as the putting this event on, is sort of doing the outreach to sort of figure out one if there is a type of, type language you want to have, as Meredith discussed with Michael and myself we would put in, in advance the soya language, then say we, you have three people who speak Portuguese who are interested in attending that would make a request through soya, and say we need a Portuguese interpreter then put that in place. And Michael, please correct me if I'm wrong, I feel like that's what you all are working towards when we talked to Meredith to do it.

>>>: What's the meeting with sitting I can't and such?

>>>: Michael.

>>>: I didn't hear the question.

>>>: I'm here, Holly asked when we met with Meredith?

>>>: I don't remember the date.

>>>: I don't remember the date either, Michael had reached out to SOIA on his own, Meredith looped me in, that's what we do the liaison is not copied. So I will have to look.

>>>: That's fine.

>>>: But I believe, we left it that Michael could continue to work with the group on planning this event. And then, I would help him with the proper channels to figure out what the best way to request that. I think we left it that it would be for people to request if they needed, we wouldn't be putting things in place.

>>>: So, this is, this is Michael again. I think that we would do, we would advertise it in all the different languages and exactly what Adrienne is saying, we would just say if you needed it, please let us know. And by a certain date. So that, it would be able to be done. That is the way I remember it.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: What's the limit takes if there is any with RSJ to the number of people that can join?

>>>: I'm not sure, there is a limitation, I have to check account settings, I think it's probably in the hundreds the city accounts should be equipped to handle public consumption of the Zoom meeting.

>>>: Could you find out?

>>>: I certainly can. What we do need, Michael and I everybody as soon as possible, whatever the advertisement is going to look like, we would need that language because that will sit--I can't translate that in other languages, so we can all --

>>>: --I'm sorry, Michael.

>>>: This is Michael again, I did make up flyer to put out, and I don't know if that has to be approved by the commission or not. There was one I sent to you, Holly.

>>>: You we would need to have communication review that. Come up with a communication plan.

>>>: Excellent.

>>>: We can talk to you offline in between the meetings about that. Also there is moment, I see your hand, there is a second event that. propose with the school, and sorry, school committee with the superintendent that will be the person which was. [Indiscernible by Captioner], which was very well received. And I think it's a great idea. A great project, we have to give the superintendent some more time they are managing and school buildings and other things

>>>: This is Michael again. Just for language, sake it's not a contest, it's a challenge or a project.

>>>: There we go. Challenge and a project.

>>>: We had that discussion.

>>>: Yes. So, like we did last year in July, when we did disability pride that was the first time, we had multiple events that were owned as opposed to attending like others. And so, we'll have to come up with a draft and plan and then set a meeting to go over how we want it handled and how we would like to see it pushed out.

>>>: This is Michael. We also have--I would also like to encourage people, I hope to do a PSA on mental health. And I would encourage anybody else who has --any relationship with mental health, to please let me know. Let Holly know, so we can hopefully--we can include you as well.

>>>: Thank you. Harriotte.

>>>: Just as a reminder, I don't know what to say I don't think everybody knows it needs communication [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: The cities communication department.

>>>: SOIA --this is, and Somerville office of immigrant affairs. SOIA.

>>>: I thought that was a person.

>>>: You are right, always write out abbreviations and acronyms.

Yes, Miss Harriotte.

>>>: I will turn it to Adrienne. We spoke about some ways to figure out what language is need to be there. For this meeting. What you were saying that you already have three people that are Portuguese speaking, and this would require RSVP, for the meeting. So how do we plan for the number of languages for the participants?

>>>: Very true. Yes, thank you, Harriotte, that's a great question. So, it's, really by request. And so, if we have, so it's advertised. And foreperson SOIA has the capacity, they have staff communicated with different groups of people who have other primary language other than English. So, they may through the other efforts identify that a group of Portuguese speaking people would like to attend, that's automatically says, oh, we can think about putting a Portuguese interpreter at the event. On the other side of that, Harriotte, if they do all the advertising and then one person comes forward and goes through the form or let staff person know they are coming it's one person, then there will be efforts to get a Portuguese interpreter for the event. It's not a set number I just use that as an example.

>>>: Okay. One last question. To understand does that mean when we have our fliers, prepared, by the commission, does that mean they'll help us in the matter of distributing it, and where community members who speak at those gathering spots who speak other languages, distribution through not only through let's say a flyer translated into Portuguese, or whatever, will they have to be actual distribution of -- I would imagine they have some notion of things other than the library unless the libraries and the school, I don't know. So that, it gotten especially people are not necessarily talking through the computer we don't have to discuss it any further tonight, I am just saying it is an asset. Be helpful for us to know.

>>>: Thank you, Harriotte. To the chair, to you. So short answer or short answer, yes, so that is our actual part of the request form that you need help with



community outreach to the community. They'll do their best, of course it does not guarantee attendance, but they do their best because they work with these folks in lots of different things all the time, they are engaging with the Somerville community, so that would be a part of that. And distributing the flyer and knowing what groups, if I may just a reminder on the finance piece, it is invoice is one thing, if this is a speaker, who is not done work with The City before they'll need a W9 so they can put in as a vendor.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: This is Michael--to the chair, I would like to address what Harriotte said. I would like to look to all of you help advertise this. And to help call all of those agencies that you think would be interested in attending. So, this isn't something where we are having somebody else do it for us, this is something we as a commission are going to be voting on to take on. So, any support that people can give, in helping to advertise it, would be needed. Thank you.

>>>: We all want to support you and this event, Michael.

>>>: Yes, Frank.

>>>: I want -- ask that since the primary language of this event is English, I suggest that advertising of these language was not English. RSVP, so we know, we'll have some idea of how many people will be attending of each language.

>>>: That's a good point thank you.

>>>: To the chair, sorry, brain snaps.

Lightning. That does remind me, and I have to check-in on our account, traditionally these events of this type it works, I'm trying to think.

It's sometimes works to Franks point to have registration or some way to RSVP that way you are sort of aware of numbers and you, you know how many people are going to be in the room, most importantly the person that's speaking knows how many and I think most people are aware of Zoom does have a registration form or other Public Meetings, sometimes require that. Just because, and, of course, we know registration forms are not accessible to everybody. So they are not. So, I think it's separate conversation away from this, is it because there are other things that we can do to get registration that might be a little bit more accessible.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: So, I think that's a different offline conversation, but I'm just sort of planting that seed.

>>>: Michael, ALT TEX on your images.

>>>: Are there images?

>>>: This is Michael. Are you asking me if there are any images?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: No.

>>>: ALT TEXT, it's not just words. I try to minimize the amount of words on a poster, I think if it's too busy, then people aren't going to read it.

>>>: My only thing was there earlier, anything that we create whatever it is, excuse

me, we need to include description of images that are included. So that they can become read by screen readers.

>>>: This is Michael. They need to be on the poster itself.

>>>: No.

>>>: They are in the files, we need to make sure that we start doing our own saying, our dog food is accessible to own Jell-O, or another, ALT TEXT.  
Or own Jell-O.

[LAUGHTER].

That we're going to live what we speak, we'll do what we say, we want our communication to also be accessible. And our posters and events to also be to be embossed and easily to be read with screen reading technologies. That's what my as Adrienne said lightning bolt was, whatever you have, and not to call you out Michael, we have to make sure you do that request yourself. We need to try to remember to do that. That would be interesting to make sure that we'll check that with our resources here.

All right. Thank you. We are 8:52, it's all you, Sheila, where is the money?

>>>: The month of January, we received a total of \$9,399, and \$8,600 was in fines and fees, about \$800 in interest. And expenditures, we haven't had any --

[Indiscernible by Captioner], and, otherwise, it was very typical month. Still trying the way it's been, again still looks like we are bringing as much as we have in the past years. Okay.

>>>: So, I mentioned, we gave the parking group update. Because we met and talked about the different documents. [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: And all of that. But then, I got an email and it was taking a look at, subscribed to the mobility update and say planning updates it was take a look at these reports in there was signal bike network plan from, I think it dated 2023, but it was last week, came up as an email and I opened it up and on page four, it said, the bikes Somerville acknowledgment many thanks to all participated in the creation of this plan, and the Mayor and the consultants and city council, and city staff, under committee, it has the commission for persons with disabilities. I don't recall meeting with the bicycle or bike of Somerville to work on the creation of this bicycle network plan. And I know, we have asked many times to be included in things like that, Somerville, and 2040, and the climate and a document that are guiding our decisions and so we look this over as part of the legislative matter. Because, it mentioned us here, then it mentions us further down. Are you able to pull up that document, Adrienne [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: Not with really disrupting this. One second.

>>>: Are you connected?

>>>: I'm not.

>>>: May I ask you a question, just to finish up with the conversation that we were having was the point of bringing up the vote.

>>>: Michael, I'm so sorry, forgive me.

>>>: That's why I'm bringing it up, don't worry.

>>>: I don't know why you didn't say something to me. I would like to make a motion that we approve the invoice for \$1,500 for the speaker, to provide a workshop on the topic I healing together supporting mental health at homogenous, and we understand this may change as the topic. If that ends up happening, this is in support of our mental health awareness events in the month of May. Michael, would you like to second the motion?

>>>: I will second it.

>>>: Excellent. And, Mike, how do you vote?

>>>: Aye.

>>>: Sheila?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Murshid?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Aye.

>>>: And Pauline?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Laurie?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Deborah?

>>>: Aye.

>>>: And Helen?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And Harriotte?

>>>: I'm a yes.

>>>: Ingrid is not here and Frank--and so thank you, Michael, for all the work and you know, we can now we'll get you the proper W9 which version needs to be used with the scholarships?

>>>: Yeah, we just straightened that out.

>>>: I can pull up the W9.

>>>: She'll send you the W9 if you don't mind passing that along.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: Awesome.

Were you able to bring up the document?

>>>: I am, I want to be careful because once I share screen, I will not be able to see the screen.

>>>: No worries.

>>>: It's the full plan, it was as doc.

>>>: So the whole plan, and then the website is actually broken it down by chapters, but I didn't know what you wanted to say.

>>>: If you pull up the whole plan, you should be able to see on page 2. Chapter two, sorry.

I will stop you for one second. So this is an example of what we talked about earlier. About how a lot of this is showing is the bicycle network plan which is on a map it has all the streets and colors. And it's telling you how long something is where the bicycle path goes to and connects to. And in the case of the documents, this is important for this to be inclusive, we need to talk about what the map is showing, as well as so that when it was removed to the inbox it will still have the same -- meaning. So, I am looking at page --

2.5 supporting groups. Chapter two.

>>>: So this is part of the PDF, this is Chapter 2 so I can find it easier.

So you said, 2.5?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: And okay.

>>>: I feel that in part this is speaking to --

a certain method, which I'm sure was not interpreted. I don't believe we were formally consulting to do --

[Indiscernible by Captioner] with the planning.

In some ways it's associated with it.

>>>: Supporting groups. Somerville accepts and adding bicycles into the structure, and reading to larger bicycle ridership is a product of many groups, municipalities and state and nationwide levels all grouped together. Then its discussions there are commitments and commissions that support the city's access

and sustainable transportation. And we are listed here as reviewing and making recommendations for projects and planned and facilitated venues for engagement. I don't think we did this. But I do see that as an opportunity to ask that we are allowed to give some feedback and be part of this. This is something that may not represent what's happened and actually ask that we now have that opportunity. I see you shaking your head, nodding your head.

>>>: I feel strongly. As you put it, at a teachable moment we can do that, I hope.

>>>: Just to the chair, clarifying question, it's certainly from memory at this point, I don't have that in front of me. It doesn't necessarily answer to the question of involvement or non-involvement but I want to ask, 2021 is when I first started with the city and I was, I had the understanding at the time, and that the person who was your predecessor sat on this planning board and then continued to do so despite their move and not serving on the commission anymore. That was my understanding, I don't know who I would check with on that. But I am just wondering even though --

>>>: Bicycle network?

>>>: Yes, she was also a cyclist.

>>>: Yes.

>>>: Excellent. I did not know that.

>>>: She was very involved in a lot of different groups. This is I guess ringing a bell for me. So again, I can't speak -- not sure what this is --



But I can't speak because I'm not sure, I'm sort of getting an idea maybe she did serve on this.

>>>: This also has RSJ interpreting; did you contribute to this?

>>>: I did not sit on this, no.

>>>: So I think--

>>>: That doesn't mean somebody from RSJ doesn't, and the 2021 the RSJ.

>>>: 2023.

>>>: But my point that the people who are asked to serve at the beginning and continue it serve for two-years, are the same people that are started in 2021 department at that time was a very small department. And he started in March, and I was hired in November--there was the chance it was a director or another staff member.

>>>: I know that we had, we had a --something also published that we approved of their plan. And that it had 20% accessible seating and Gillman square pop-up report. So, I was surprised to see us listed on something that I don't remember being a part of. But I would love to be able to share some comments with to discuss, bicycle safety is just as important as pedestrian safety. And, we need to protect people who are in those bike lanes and how that --

It's very important, but as far as the only inter. ion that we ever had concerns a bike lane how they are intersecting parking spots, especially accessible spots. And how that could be a safety measure. So I don't understand why the commission. would

be listed on something that the chair wasn't aware of that we were going to be listed as a --

Creator of the plan. Then, further on, where it talks about us in that other section, which you can see here. So I say, this was a gift. And an opportunity for us to engage with them and to actually get some information. I don't think we should do anything other than think of this as an opportunity.

I'm looking at some nods. Any other discussion on this?

>>>: Holly.

>>>: I would echo what you say, I think this is an important issue. You didn't -- you have no record of this ever happened. You have been on the commission for how long?

>>>: Few hundred years.

[LAUGHTER]

>>>: Half a century. But if this bike plan is adopted, and it says if a commission was consulted on it, I can't see anyway the commission would ever have said gee we like this idea when it does so many things that we don't like, or at least I don't like I'm thinking for myself. But I think it's important that we ask to take a look at it.

>>>: Thank you, Helen. Any other comments?

>>>: Yeah. You know I can't get this -- plan off my screen. So, I can't see who is talking.

>>>: Okay. You can drop it down now. Thank you for showing that.

>>>: Thank you, that's good.

>>>: All right.

>>>: I am just noting I do not think it effects the form that she and Laurie, they did say they were leaving.

>>>: To the chair I would invite any of you who can see, such things run through the text.

>>>: We shouldn't be using the chat because it's monitored--we need to disable the chat.

>>>: So, I will check settings and then double check with the clerk's office.

>>>: Please know if you are having an issue to raise your hand. You want to say something?

>>>: Well, I would just like to echo what Helen said, and I think that there is some concern when we viewed the plan, I'm not sure the commission would consider that plan. I don't see what they recognized -- I don't think they had much in the way about the effects on disabilities. When they viewed the plan, I think that the commission has discussed this and we start with the culture, which was just mentioned maybe the report saying we basically are in agreement with what they did in Gillman square the pop-up part, they came and talked to us, we gave them things that would make it accessible, they said this is wonderful we'll take this back and work on it, then there was nothing accessible. I think we have to be really careful about how people throw our name out there, as though we have given an okay to

this. It makes us look as though, it's okay. It wasn't okay. And it's not okay for the bike lane, if somebody talked, the commission, I don't believe is involved in it. As far as -- >>>: I'll reach out to find out what has a handle on these things. I think it is important that we, we want people to still want to, get our feedback, even if it's not something they want to hear. It would be nice for us to be able, for it to have said the commission discussed concerned and recognized -- I'm pairing the importance of safety for all persons. Especially for people that are biking in traffic with our without protected lanes that are concerned, also -- it's not that we are saying we don't believe in bike safety, we also believe in safety for persons with disabilities, we may not have a collusion on how to make the perfect plan, I would have preferred we have both side of that presented in, in our words, like people said, people leave the disability commission it's assumed that the whole thing was discussed. It is important that we recognize the importance of bike safety. But how we were involved in that, could also needs to be transparent in the document, me as the chair or was presented the same with Gillman square, there is another one which is the -- Open space and recreation plan. That we gave feedback too. And but remember listed on that also. So, I think we need to see these as opportunities to engage in a meaningful way, and to find out how we can give appropriate feedback and recognize -- this is part of what disability commission does. Disability commission is supposed to be engaged within, in all parts of the community. In all things that are happening. In the planning, it is to have a voice. We have been asking to have

a voice and now just by chance I found we had voices they may not have been actually what was reported at the time.

>>>: Okay.

>>>: I'm sorry you had your hand up. Ms. Pauline.

>>>: I have a question.

>>>: Sorry, Michael.

>>>: Go ahead, Pauline.

>>>: Okay. I have a question. And my concern is those of you that are blind, try to navigate with all of these bike lanes and speed bumps and all of that. We can't hear a bicycle. When you are trying, cross the street. We can't hear things like that.

>>>: As opposed to hearing a car.

>>>: Right.

>>>: As a blind person.

>>>: Just to add that.

>>>: How do we navigate this remain independent is my concern.

>>>: Well, I would if you have the opportunity to say that to the people.

>>>: I would love to tell them.

>>>: They may have an idea or suggestion, that would be a collaborative discussion.

Vs. what we didn't have an opportunity in this case, but we would like to have that opportunity.

>>>: Because everybody, everybody I have talked to has said, oh, well it will get rid of the cars. It will clean up the environment and all of that stuff. What about human things? What about us?

>>>: Yep, lost audio.

>>>: And help you. Something behind me, a bike, car I really, no are matter how they have adjusted my hearing, I can't hear the motion from behind.

Michael?

>>>: This is Michael am I want to be careful when whoever does talk to you about whatever, that, when I read that I don't have it in front of me, but it didn't say we agreed with anything, it didn't say we were consulted it basically said something to the idea that we agreed that the goal of the city is to have a safe something or another. So, I'm just saying I think every point that was made is very valid. And I think we should be careful with how we present it to say that we like a voice but not to say that you know, you said we said anything, we didn't agree to anything. I want to be sure that we are saying the right thing when we present it to people. That's all I want to say.

>>>: I think that's very fair to say and I appreciate where you are coming from. But I think when you are label us as supporting group, at the top of the paragraph, without being able to say, we as a commission are in support of bike safety. How it goes, we may have concerns. But we as humans all want bikers to be safe, if we were to vote, no one would say we don't. No one wants anyone to be harmed, it is

very complicated to try to get harmony between all of the, bike users and street user and curb users in the four square miles of any 81,000 people, and 500 more and invite more people to live here, it's going to get even more dense. And, so, we do have to figure out how safely end and coexist. My reason for showing this is because it is an opportunity to engage in something that I have been trying to get us to be able to engage with other groups, I don't want to miss shame or a negative thing that's not what we are here to do. We want them to update this and have a confrontation we have to approach this as our part as individuals, we know what we learn from each other, we don't know this group or another group has written something about us and what their information is, until we have the time and the opportunity to let them speak to talk about these matters. So being able to talk to other groups is so important to us. So clearly, they want us to be involved. Yes Harriotte is shaking her head.

>>>: es, and I think that's very clear. I'm relieved for us to discuss this tonight. And I would look forward to the opportunity to form communication and pathway to work with the people from various parts of this. To do the same thing. Like you mentioned already, some are not objective. That's my input.

>>>: We are --

At 9:20, is there any updates from --

>>>: Hello, sorry. The chair Michael has left which means we have lost --  
I think we can just keep going, we can vote. [MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>>>: Any of the groups that haven't been able to speak, whether it be the education group, mental health group.

>>>: This is Deborah. We were approached by a member of the special education parents group C pack. That they would like to partner with us to do some kind of after school program offering for children with special needs. We're in the middle of just beginning to figure out what that might look like. There are other offices that in nearby cities that work that we do not have in Somerville. So one of the suggestions is trying to figure out one of the adoptive programs such as and bike programs, might work as something that's already pre-made that we could, could have for the city rather than trying to reinvent the.

[Indiscernible by Captioner] I think that would be wonderful. And to discuss with the bicycle committee. Wouldn't you?

>>>: Yes.

>>>: I think that ties everything back in to see how they would support that. There is always something we haven't done with another group. I'm trying to remind everyone. We're not going to go vote on that. But thank you for sharing that information. Anything else?

[Indiscernible by Captioner]

>>>: I had a conversation with another resource about an accessible after school and or summer program that had to do with gardening, nothing more to share about that, that's for this conversation with a lovely individual that would be something that



we'll discuss in our smaller groups then bring back for next month. I will, I will  
motion to adjourn. All those in favor, aye, aye, excellent, we are adjourned.  
Thank you.