

## **Draft Minutes** for July 9th, 2025 Meeting of the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Commissioners and associates present: Holly Simione, Harriotte Ranvig, Sheila Tracy, Ingrid Snider, Nick Altschuller, Nikki Aurora, Pauline Downing, Murshid Buwembo, Helen Corrigan, and Frank Lee

Also present on Zoom: Amanda Nagim-Williams, RSJ Director, Adrienne Pomeroy, RSJ and Luisa Oliveira, Director Public Space & Urban Forestry

Roll call, Welcome, read agenda

Presentation and update by Luisa Oliveira on ten accessible swings to be installed in ten Somerville parks. Questions and discussion followed by Holly Simione making the motion to allocate up to \$25,000 for the purchase of ten swings, professional installation and extra harness straps. Pauline Downing and Harriotte Ranvig seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote of nine commissioners. They will send the updated Sales order/quote to the Chair for signature.

Safe Streets a 2025 report on pedestrian and transit infrastructure detailed in the Vision Zero Action Plan and ADA Title II Transition plan was discussed. The costs listed per mile of "quick build" bike lanes based on 2024 are \$491,900 per mile. The report includes a plan through 2030 to complete the 30 total miles of protected bicycle lanes and costs based on available 2024 estimates. It does not highlight what progress has been made to achieving compliance with the ADA Transition plan of 2013. Holly will reach out to the city to ask for updates on that information and how they are ensuring PWD are included in future bike lane designs.

Treasurer Update: Shiela Tracy gave a treasury update which included \$14,200 in Handicap Parking fines and \$1054.62 in interest for the month of June, 2025

As of 6/30/25 our total fund balance is \$316,230.49.

Excluding tonight's votes, there is a total of \$117,553. from previous votes that have not yet been expended, reducing our balance to \$198,677.49.

Reducing this amount by our \$150,000 reserve, the remaining available fund balance is \$48,677.49

Planning and costs of materials for Disability Pride Month: 35 years of ADA - July 2025. The events were reviewed, and an ask for more volunteers are needed for Art Beat this year. Reminded folks to sign up for the July 27<sup>th</sup> Tri-Commission signup.

Funding from DPM (5/14/2024 \$3,000 voted and 6/11/2024 \$2,000 voted) remains to cover costs for 2025 in the amount of \$2,369.27. Additionally, on 7/9/2024 \$10K was approved by vote for Books and Educational materials to be shared with residents at Disability Pride and other SCPD events of which \$9,408.01 remains.

After a discussion of additional books and materials for the flag raising and ArtBeat, Holly Simone proposed an additional \$4,000 for Disability Pride Month events. Pauline Downing and Nick Altschuller seconded. The Commission's roll call vote was unanimous.

Nikki Aurora presented the sample of the newly designed accessible push button signage, with very large, raised block letters and strong color contrast, and Braille. Below each section is the matching Braille. She also took questions as Commissioners discussed the locations and numbers of the signs already installed or to be installed.

iCan Bike Project: Originally presented in our May commission meeting was further discussed. Discussion to offer to fund bicycles and helmets, at roughly \$200 a piece, for up to 25 Somerville children participating in the iBike program, who do not own bikes and are applying to learn to ride a bike. After discussion, Holly made the motion to allocate up to \$5,000 toward the purchase of bicycles and helmets for Somerville children who will be in the iBike Somerville program. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Based on rain forecast, RSJ has secured an alternative date of July 24<sup>th</sup> for the Flag Raising on the Mayors schedule. This date does not work for Harriotte. We will trust RSJ to follow the weather and decide tomorrow (7/10/2025) by 12:30pm if the event will be moved to July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Murshid asked if we could focus on planning events for adult residents with disabilities. Laurie had talked about the closing of a local hangout and Ingrid shared her desire to also find a place for a game night or movie night or other activity to bring adults in our community together. Ingrid and Murshid will research ideas and bring back to the Commission to discuss in August.

Holly Simone adjourned the meeting at 7:58PM.

Minutes taken by Harriotte Ranvig.

**DRAFT MINUTES – July 9, 2025 SCPD Meeting**