

Town of Dedham Commission on Disability Meeting
September 17, 2018 Town Hall First Floor Conference Room – 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Tocci, Vicky Berg, Tricia Whitehouse, Ellen Conway,
Diane Loud, Robert Winston, Ken Cimeno, Bernadette Chirokas

John Tocci chaired the meeting.

June 2018 minutes were approved with no edits.

August 2018 minutes require the following edits:

- Under CART grant section, change *in September 2018, CART equipment will be evaluated and trialed in a meeting* to *in September 2018, CART equipment will be evaluated and trialed in a meeting before the annual Town Meeting*
- Under the Scholarships section, change both instances of *received scholarships* to *were selected for scholarships*

Treasurer's Report:

August beginning balance: \$57,119.24

August ending balance: \$57,227.37

John has sent repeated emails (June, August and September) to Andrea Terkelsen regarding the breakdown of line items, but has received nothing back.

Massachusetts Office on Disability Updates/Grant Application Proposal – Riverdale Playground:

John Tocci received feedback from the Mass Office on Disability that they were very impressed with our grant applications from last year. There was some concern expressed by MOD that Dedham has not adopted the Community Compact Public Accessibility Best Practice through the Commonwealth's program. John emailed the town about this and learned that a best practice can only be adopted every two years. Dedham just adopted the Information Technology Best Practice last year (the Town's second). The Public Accessibility Best Practice will require Dedham to undertake an ADA Self-Evaluation and to develop a transition plan to comply with Federal civil rights laws that require public buildings to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

- Question for Sam Rippin: Can we have the selectmen commit to adopting a best practice in 2019?
- If not, can we add into our grant narrative that we are confident because we asked the Board of Selectmen to consider adopting a best practice for 2019?

Other discussion for this grant:

- We might consider asking for a smaller amount. The price of the proposal from the contractor is \$280K, so our ask for the MOD grant is \$140K. Also consider that the MOD has increased their total spend for grants to \$1.5m from \$1m. Decision: keep our ask the same.
- If we do not receive the grant this year, the town will likely still move forward with building the Riverdale playground. We can always resubmit in 2020 for one of the other schools.

- We have a current letter of commitment from Sam Rippin.
- Grant narrative edits:
 - Change *disabled children to children with disabilities*
 - Impact of access: add mobility disabilities
- In the document on COD Summary of Activities, section about activities in 2002, change *Managed the revenues derived from 50% of the fines generated from violations of the handicap parking laws in Dedham* to *Managed the revenue received from violations of the handicap parking laws in Dedham.*
- In the document on COD Summary of Activities, section about activities in 2004, change *Conducted an access survey at Noble and Greenough School* to *Conducted an accessibility survey at Noble and Greenough School.*

Motion to make the above changes to the grant submission and submit it was unanimously passed.

Massachusetts Office on Disability Updates/Grant Application Proposal – CART System:

We are not sure where the CART equipment is. Ken will email Andrea Terkelsen to find out. She returns to the office on September 24th.

New Business:

- Letter received by a Greenlodge resident: Tricia Whitehouse read into record a letter received by a resident who had been hit in the jaw by a drone at the Main Library. The letter contained 2 chief concerns:
 - Requesting that the library reimburse her for \$120 in medical fees related to this injury.
 - Reference to a February 3rd conversation between this resident and the director of the library, in which the resident had suggested the use of office chairs for proper ergonomic support. The library complied with this request however, on the date of the letter (September 17), the resident had returned to the library to find that the downstairs had been carpeted and the office chairs removed. Because the resident has chemical sensitivities in addition to the need for a more supportive chair, she states that this effectively denied her access to the library and is seeking a solution.
 - Ken Cimeno will follow up with the resident, find out her needs, and follow up with the library to determine if these needs can be accommodated.
- Town website:
 - It is difficult to locate us on the town website
 - Meeting information is incorrect
 - Minutes have not been posted in quite a while
 - John had a request from the town for names/correct spelling/term limit information of all Commission members, as well as for contact information for someone on the Commission. Ken is willing to have both his work and cell phone numbers listed, and John is willing to have his email listed.

- John will reach out to Paul Munchbach regarding term dates and posting the minutes, then Diane will follow up with Paul about posting the minutes.
- John is going to reach out to Mac regarding the HP violations spreadsheet in order to reconcile the budget from the minutes.
- Vicky Berg was asked to be on a panel by the Women in Democracy. Bernadette is planning to attend.
- Agenda for October meeting should include:
 - Discussion of increasing the amount of the scholarship award and/or the number of scholarships we grant
 - Voting on officers once we have term information

Future Meetings:

October 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

November 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

December 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Loud