

Brookline Commission on Disability

Thursday, March, 21 2019

6:00 to 7:30PM

Town Hall Room 408

Present: Chair, Saralynn Allaire, Members: Jim Miczek, Rob Heist, Myra Berloff, Ben Franco, Henry Winkelman

Absent: Joan Mahon, Ann Kamensky, and Elaine Ober

Ex Officio: Sarah E. Kaplan, ADA Coordinator/Community Relations Specialist, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Relations

The meeting commenced at 6:05 PM.

I. Identification of note taker – Sarah Kaplan

II. Introduction/Public Comments

a. Guest: Kevin Stokes, Brookline's Chief Information Officer (IT Department)

Presentation on Town's efforts to obtain 508 Conformance; possible partnership to align our respective goals:

- Kevin gave the Commission background on Town website, which is currently run by CivicPlus. The Town does not currently have a Web Master, each department owns their own pages and IT provides training and support as needed. There about 900 different pages that make up the Town website. The Town is good at putting documents online. The challenges as it pertains to accessibility include legacy documents and not knowing original owners and also how to make sure that new documents added online meet 508/WCAG conformance standards. Currently working with 24/7 Accessible Documents to work on two specific documents that have been requested as a reasonable accommodation by a Town resident. The vendor is working on a financial document right now to see if they can remediate it, there is a 50/50 chance that it can be successfully done. The larger issue of 508 Conformance is being taken on as follows: Currently looking for an intern to work on this issue. IT is creating training documents for Town staff, hopefully go out in the summer. IT will also be visiting The Carroll Center to increase their understanding and expertise in this area; possibly will use them as a vendor. Looking at working other outside vendors, possibly AudioEye, still need to make sure they are the right vendor for the Town's needs. Came to the Commission for ideas, best practices, and possible partnership. Myra suggested reaching out to Rob Dias; she also thinks The Carroll Center is a good resource on this issue, also suggested Sara Bourne. Discussion about what 508 Conformance entails. Will need to make some value judgments on how to make this happen; when to fix, when to rebuild from scratch. Need to figure out how the Town would work with outside vendors to create accessible public documents – suggested talking to procurement and the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance; Polly Welch is the person at DCAMM who works on accessibility and also lives in Town. Plan to return to the Commission in a few months with updates.

b. Cindy Lee, Liaison for Transportation Board

c. Ray Masak, Project Manager, Town Building Department and two architects from William Rawn Associates: Andrew Jonic and Adam Weber.

### III. Variances

#### a. New variances:

- **Kirrane Pool Renovation – Draft 2:** Since January meeting, the architects met with Pool Staff to discuss accessible seating, willingness to move equipment on deck. Current draft includes five accessible seats/space with companion seats and to also add other spectator seating on the deck for a total of 18-20 seats, thus integrating the accessible seating. Saralynn asked about type of seating; architects could encourage purchase of seating with backs, which would encourage people to use these seats because some have said the bleachers are uncomfortable. Discussed benefits and drawbacks to making the seating open to all. Saralynn proposed approving the variance with the following mitigating policies: 1) There be moveable seats with backs; 2) There be signage to indicate priority seating for people with disabilities and their companions; 3) There be training of pool staff to assist people with disabilities in using the seating and enforcing the priority seating policy; 4) There be a section in the pool manual regarding the accessible seating. Myra seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor of granting the variance.

### IV. Review of Minutes

- Minutes from January 17, 2019 – approved as amended.
- Minutes from February 21, 2019 – approved as amended; Myra and Jim abstained.

### V. Old Business

- Trial for the AM parking ban for the east-bound side of Beacon:** Cindy Lee reported that the trial will be discussed in the May Transportation Board meeting – likely May 13, 2019. Discussed Saralynn writing guidance regarding what to do regarding the trial. Myra offered to speak at the Transportation Board meeting in May regarding the possibility that blocking the HP parking during the trial and beyond could be illegal. BCOD strongly objects to the moving of any of the HP spots. Saralynn is going to write a letter to the Transportation Board and make a request for reasonable accommodation to move the topic to the first item on the agenda. Myra seconded. The vote approved Saralynn writing the letter and making the request; Ben Franco abstained.
- Status of a trial of the west-bound side of Beacon St:** They are not going to be doing a bike trial for the west-bound side of Beacon. Saralynn asked Todd to be included on the planning stage for these kinds of things and that waiting until they get to the Transportation Board is too late in the process. As of today, Todd has not responded to the Chair or the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator suggested sending a BCOD Liaison to the Bike Committee and inviting them to send to BCOD's meetings. Tabled this for future meetings.
- Follow-up on 'Tips for Viewer Friendly TMM presentations document:** Tabled for a future meeting.

### VI. New Business

- Results of Uber Focus Group held at Boston City Hall:** Tabled for a future meeting.
- Materials for BCOD website:** Tabled for a future meeting.
  - **Map of accessible parking spots in Brookline:** Tabled for a future meeting.
- Surveillance for school and Waldo St. Projects:** Tabled for a future meeting.
- Scooter trial:** Tabled for a future meeting.

### VII. ADA Coordinator update – None; not discussed due to lack of time.

- a. **Follow-up on tree removal request, Harvard St. (side street):** Not discussed.
- b. **Communication with Laura Brelsford, MBTA ADA Coordinator:** Not discussed.

VIII. Announcements

- a. None

IX. Date for next meeting: **April 18 or April 25, 2019.** Final date will be decided before the next meeting.