



Roxann Wedegartner  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS**

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*Members:*

Lynne Kelley – Chair  
Douglas Mayo  
L'aura Jordan  
Virginia DeSorgher  
Robert Williford

**GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)**

Remote Via WebEx

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday, September 9, 2021

\*\*\*1:00 p.m.\*\*\*

**Members present:**

Lynne Kelley, Chair  
Virginia “Ginny” DeSorgher  
L’aura Jordan  
Douglas Mayo  
Bob Williford

**Also present:**

Lindsay Rowe, ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield  
Christian LaPlante, Grant Program Assistant City of Greenfield  
Loreen Flockerzie, Greenfield Human Rights Commission  
Pamela McBride, Greenfield Public Library

LK called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**Approval of the minutes from August 12, 2021**

VD motion to approve, second DM

*Roll call vote*

*All in favor*

**Treasurer's report**

Handicap parking fund gained \$200.00, for a balance of \$3,401.05. The General Fund Available budget is \$300.00.

LK move to accept, DM second

*Roll call vote*

*All in favor*

### **Ongoing issues**

#### **Outside Guests: Human Rights Committee connections with Loreen Flockerzie, Chair**

Loreen describes the role of HRC, HRC dealing with homelessness, Center for New Americans, recreational facilities available to everyone (Nature Gap). Homelessness an ongoing issue

DM notes that \$5.1 million in ARPA money is at the discretion of the Mayor. If people have suggestions for that money they should address it to the Mayor. Mayor's current priority is the Court Square project, DM would rather that money was spent on homelessness than beautification.

LK invited Loreen as a way of CDA reaching out to other committees. Projects and interests might overlap. Interested in Loreen's mention of Nature Gap as ADA transition plan has a recreation aspect.

Loreen worked at the ARC, agrees that there is overlap. There is a lot of homelessness work that people can access. The GPD does a good job of making sure people are cared for.

LK notes that the committee is working on a contact form for people contacting the CDA, HRC is also working on its own

version, the Mayor's Office is reviewing. Issue of anonymity in open meetings.

LK notes that DOJ and Mass Architectural Board also receive complaints.

DM notes DPW's 311 and if something similar could be done for people dealing with human rights issues. Questions and problems could be delegated. BW notes there would still be issues of privacy. BW is reminded that the commission had talked to Lindsay Rowe about a commission email address - they are expensive. Loreen states HRC has not received an email address yet. DM states that ARPA money could be used for these situations. Citizens want to see money used for homelessness, porta potties etc.

VD notes that on 6:00pm Monday the public is invited to give feedback. Having a place to use the bathroom is a human right, Loreen agrees. VD makes the announcement that the idea of using the Hope St Lot as a handicap accessible mixed income housing project after the temp fire station moves. Has HRC received complaints from homeless people? Loreen states that they have had homeless people come before the HRC.

LK says that once COVID winds down the CDA and HRC could do a community event together. Loreen agrees and that each commission and board in town should put an educational piece in the paper about what they do.

Committees will keep in touch about contact forms.

VD notes that commission takes classes to know what buildings are/should be accessible to all. Education ensures that everyone has access to all programs.

DM notes work on Garden Theatre to make it accessible. VD states that Court Square pilot has some accessibility questions.

Loreen thanks the committee for the invitation.

### **Building accessibility/library**

LK signed up for home delivery from the library. Is there any news on parking at the Bank? PM does not have any additional information. At the last meeting, the Committee approved about \$500 to spend on getting a sign at the bank. VD reached out to Tim Ferrell, chair of construction, and Ed Berlin, who was the chair during the planning phase reached out to Ginny. He's aware of the committee's desire for a space, but not sure how long the back entrance will be available.

LK was sad to be unable to make the Library groundbreaking, but glad that Bob and Doug could make it. DM found out that there's another issue that needs resolution is the Fire Station being a historical landmark and concerns about taking it down. There's a lot of communication and he hopes it is resolved quickly to move the projects forward.

### **COVID-19 information**

Does anyone have updates from Board of Health? VD spoke with Nancee Bershof, MD, chair, last week regarding making a mask mandate mandatory. VD noted that the numbers are higher than when there was one previously. There are two large events which are economically important to the community, but difficult to control. It's hard to tell people to wear a mask. VD notes that at many stores it's 60/40 or 50/50 mask wearing.

PM as a city department, people are required to wear masks when in city buildings. It's not been too hard for the library to manage.

DM hearing about millions of doses of vaccine being discarded across the country.

LK reminds people that Long Haul COVID is recognized as a disability now.

### **Update on street repairs**

LK notes that Bob did a nice job last month catching some of the sidewalk and street repair problems. Does the DPW have a list of streets improved under the ADA transition plan? It would be helpful to look at the transition plan and see what has been completed and what remains to be done. DM the CDA is validated by showing people what we've done and show follow through. Having that list would be a good thing to do.

LK recognizes that the transition plan is so comprehensive and each could take an issue and see what's been completed. Libraries, schools, etc. One of the things brought up to the Mayor's Office was that few departments have had training.

LK Not positive on timeframe for ARPA funds. VD - 5.135 million. Half of the cash is here and half will be here next year. Believes there are two years to spend it.

VD - Slightly off topic - Masks sometimes have a communications barrier and make it harder to hear, especially older folks. How does this work at the Library?

PM - we also have plexiglass at all stations for people who need to lipread. We've practiced raising our voices for those hard of hearing.

LK - between the mask and plexiglass it's hard to hear, but we worked with it.

LK - Circling back to the Transition Plan, we have not had a chance to document all the accomplishments. Email Lynne with what areas you want to focus on.

BW - The Community Preservation Committee wants the committee to review all the plans, including the ADA transition plan, as they move forward. They're trying to find all the things the City has said we would like to get done and now would like to document accomplishments. For instance curb cuts at intersections - who is monitoring these? It's good to know there's progress. The new bridge at Green River has a great sidewalk to Elm Street, but the other side just drops off into the street.

VD - Remembers the transition plan says that almost no departments have a plan for disability access other than the Schools. But, there are so many pieces to this. For us to split it up - Public Participation, Policy/Programs/Meetings, City Buildings/Schools, Public Rights of Way, Parks & Recreations, Public Parking Lots, Municipal Buildings. Is this what we are going to split up?

LK - The ADA Transition Plan is on the website. On page 18, there are Major Findings. This may be a good place to start.

VD - Interested in website and TTY and close captioning. So many people in the world need the ability to read to process information.

### **CDA email address/ Business card**

LK - Found old CDA business cards. These need to be updated and redone.

BW - Was at the senior center and wanted to connect to someone but didn't have a business card or other piece to provide contact



information. Once there's a commission email address, we could get cards to help provide additional information for the public.

LR - Do have a business card, but will check about if it references ADA Coordinator.

LK - previously gave cards to business owners when talking about ADA issues.

## **Hybrid meetings**

Previously discussed.

## **New issues**

### **Community preservation committee/Downtown Rapid-recovery-program**

On the piece of priorities and Porta Potties and Downtown Access. Brought to her attention, Northampton has a wheelchair charging station at City Hall, and would like to add that to the list. Northampton's is outside, but if it's raining, there's not a covering.

VD - Could be ARPA or other funds for this. Looks like they're \$500-\$10,000.

LK - Portland Loo ties into the sewer system and is a permanent solution to this.

DM - In four or five days, there were 10 or more needle pickups. So many places across town.

BW - Is tying the bathrooms to where people use drugs the best idea? Or should they be tied to where people gather? There is an expense to a Portland Loo, but isn't there a cost to a PortaPotty?

VD - Some of the Portland Loos have solar and they have special heating to avoid freezing.

### **Announcements**

FRTA is meeting at 3 pm today. There are a few discussion items. And Bob will attend.

### **Next meeting October 14, 2021**

### **Adjournment**

Motion - LK, second VD - unanimous.

