



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

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Members:

Douglas Mayo – Chair
Virginia DeSorgher
Robert Williford
Lynne Kelley – Alternate

Greenfield Commission on Disability Access (CDA)

Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 1:00 pm

Via Zoom

Members present:

Douglas Mayo – Chair
Bob Williford
Lynne Kelley

Members absent:

None

Also present:

Virginia “Ginny” DeSorgher, member pending reappointment
Anna Oltman, Community Development
Pamela McBride, Greenfield Public Library
Athena Lee Bradley, Grant Manager
Anthony Stanford

Call to order

DM called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Approval of the minutes from July 13, 2023

Motion by LK to approve the minutes as written, second BW. All in favor 3-0.

Treasurers report – next update in October

n/a

ONGOING ISSUES

Transition plan updates

AO stated that architectural design work on ADA improvements to City Hall (first floor bathrooms and accessible entrance) will take place this fall.

Building access

Anthony Stanford, a resident at the Wisdom Way Solar Village, spoke about a dispute with his property manager regarding responsibility for shoveling and ploughing. He intends to meet with the property owner and maintenance company at the property and requested that a CDA member join him for support. DM will follow up separately. DM noted that regardless of responsibility for shoveling and ploughing in the Solar Village bylaws, AS is entitled to request a reasonable accommodation as a renter.

BW described a communication with a citizen about bathrooms at the new library. There are six accessible bathrooms but they were not clearly marked. Pamela McBride stated that the library is in the process of installing clearer signage. The citizen also asked about the safety of isolated bathroom stalls and about the use of scented hand soaps. PM stated that the library will use unscented soap moving forward, and that the remaining bathroom issues are being discussed.

BW asked PM about the back door of the library and the gating off of the patio. PM stated that the back door was never intended to

be used as an entrance to the library, and that the side and front entrances are both fully accessible public entrances. The back door opens directly into the children's activity area, so traffic in and out would disrupt those programs. VD stated that the library is beautiful and well-loved, and that she recognizes it takes time to adjust after a move. She asked whether the doors are accessible with 5lbs. or less of force. PM stated that this was a question for the architect. VD asked about the status of the curb ramp and cones at the side entrance. PM stated that guardrails had been ordered and would soon be installed to prevent tripping. LK stated that she is not able to find an open accessible parking space when she visits the library and asked whether more accessible spaces could be added. PM stated that the parking is owned and managed by the City.

Greenfield project updates

Community preservation act projects supported by Commission
LK recommended revisiting the idea raised last year about proposing the GRIT Freedom Chair as a potential CPC Recreation project.

Wilson's project

None

Portland Loo

None

208 Mohawk Trail (ALDI)

None

COVID-19 information



LK noted that cases are currently rising in the area and suggested checking the FDA website to see if the expiration date on test kits you might have has been extended.

Sidewalk repair

BW stated that the US Access Board has issued its final rule for public rights-of-way accessibility guidelines, though they still need to be adopted by DOT and DOJ.

Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) grant priorities

Athena Lee Bradley stated that the City would be submitting an application for a MOD Municipal ADA Grant for sidewalk improvements and new ADA panels on Beacon Street. She requested that the Commission approve a letter of support. BW moved to approve the letter for DM to sign, LK seconded, and the motion passed 3-0.

ALB stated that she and AO had visited the Green River recreation and swimming area to explore other possible grant-funded improvements, including repairing and extending the sidewalk to connect the bike path to the accessible parking area. The City Engineering Superintendent confirmed to them that this could be a viable project.

Accessible trails bill

AO reported that letters of support from the Commission were sent to Greenfield's legislative delegation and the sponsors of H.769/S.446.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS



AO announced a CDBG Public Hearing on 8/31/23 at 4 pm where a potential accessibility improvements project will be discussed.

LK recommended an exhibit at Mass MOCA by artist Joseph Grigley, who is deaf, called “In What Way Wham? White Noise and Other Works, 1996-2023.”

Next meeting September 14, 2023

Adjournment

LK motioned to adjourn, seconded by BW. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:14 pm.

