



CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS
COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
GOVERNMENT CENTER
77 PARK STREET ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2019

Present: Chairperson Angela Ferreira, Stephanie Forte (ex officio), Vice Chairperson Kevin Lacoste, Chris Laureano, Secretary Cynthia Van Voris

Absent: Michael Andrade (ex officio), Jennifer Davies, Mary-Jane Jenson, Treasurer Susan Jenson, William McDonough (ex officio)

Chairperson Ferreira called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

--City Clerk Stephen Withers distributed Summary of Conflict of Interest Law for Municipal Employees—each member needs to sign final page saying that they have received the summary. Also, each member needs to do online training course on this topic every two years (all paid or unpaid municipal employees required to do this). Please complete asap and print out certificate at end of training, which is accessed through the city website.

--Members encouraged to review new COD section on City of Attleboro website. Agendas and minutes will be posted.

--City Ordinances: those relevant to COD will be distributed at the next meeting.

Follow-up from previous meeting:

--Commission vs. Council on Disabilities: Ms. Ferreira has spoken to City Councilors Diana Holmes and Ty Waterman on this topic. It is a complicated process to change from a Council to a Commission: City Council needs to approve it, Mayor needs to sign off, and then the Governor needs to sign off, as it is a change to city ordinances. Ms. Ferreira is putting together a manual with timelines to apply for ADA grants. If the city is a member of the Community Compact, IT grants would also be available (technology infrastructure at City Hall is not optimal). Mr. Lacoste asked if grant money could be used to help renovate building on Union St.—if grant money was used, could some housing be allocated for people with disabilities? Ms. Ferreira pointed out that any ADA grant needs to be used for city-owned property. Mr. Lacoste will contact the owner of the building to get a better understanding of the project.



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--Audible cross signal on Pleasant St. near Walgreen's—no update has yet been received on this issue. Ms. Van Voris volunteered to contact Councilor Heather Porreca to get update prior to next meeting.

--Drop-in center for young adults with disabilities (idea raised by Shelley Jutras of Attleboro Enterprises at last meeting): ideas discussed include Attleboro Recreation Center, open Saturdays and Sundays from 12—4 pm; House of Possibilities Friday night events; Attleboro Y. Questions raised about who would be eligible to use such a center (DDS eligibility needed?) and what supervision would be required.

--Minutes from October 2018 and December 2018 meetings distributed and reviewed. Mr. Laureano noted two changes needed for the October minutes: Thomas Brown is the President of the Board of EMPN, not Vice President; the ten-day training on peer support is offered by the Transformation Center. With these two changes made, Mr. Lacoste moved that the October 2018 and December 2018 minutes be accepted, and Mr. Laureano seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

--Update on website/ social media: website now has links to COD's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please let Mr. Lacoste know of any relevant links that we would like posted. Ms. Forte follows entrepreneurs with disabilities and will re-tweet items of interest; feel free to tag her as desired. Discussion re: employment opportunities for people with disabilities: Ms. Forte coordinates a "Coffee Cart" at Attleboro High School, staffed by 12+ Program students ; sells coffee to staff. She is interested in opening another Coffee Cart in a city building. Ms. Ferreira has been contacted about the idea of opening a business for adult workers with disabilities in the Bronson Building (recently sold).

--Ideas for speakers at future COD meetings:

--Mass Rehab—Ms. Van Voris will contact Sarah Alden from that agency.

--Lisa Bordeleau of NA COD has contacted Ms. Ferreira regarding possible joint project of screening documentary "Intelligent Lives" which follows three young adults with disabilities. She will be invited to one of our meetings to discuss this.

--State Rep. Betty Poirier



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--Ty Waterman, new City Councilor (Chairperson of Personnel and Human Services Committee)

--Betty Clark from Attleboro Council on Human Rights

--Madeleine McNielly, Director of Attleboro Council on Aging and Senior Center

--Jack Lank, President of United Regional Chamber of Commerce

--Representative of ARC

--South Attleboro train station—Ms. Ferreira will follow up in February regarding our commitment to review the design for accessibility renovation.

--Tim Tebow Foundation sponsors Night to Shine Prom annually on the Friday before Valentine's Day (this year it is February 8). This is a worldwide event for people 14+ with disabilities.

--Next meeting will take place on February 6, 2019.

--Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Van Voris, COD Secretary