



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

MEETING MINUTES



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Madeline Nicoletti, Chair
Andrea Pianka, Vice Chair
Demetrios Kanavaros

Norman Smith III
Joanne Tirrell, Acting Secretary
Carissa Lisee

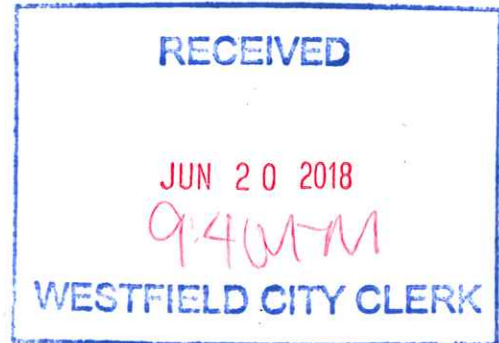
Jeffrey Gosselin

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, February 20, 2018, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Chair Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Nicoletti
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Pianka

Commissioner Gosselin



APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the meeting minutes of January 16, 2018: Motion made by Commissioner Smith to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pianka: all in favor 4/0.

Our new Commissioner, Jeffrey Gosselin, was in attendance.

Amy Porte, Westfield Evening News, 62 School Street, Westfield was in attendance to record the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 1. Carol Martin, Raymond Cassella, Westfield Whip Museum Update

Raymond Cassella showed plans for the Museum. He stated Phase 1 will be for accessible restrooms and the first floor. Restrooms will meet 521 CMR. A previously existing door on the side of the building away from the bridge will be reinstalled and a ramp meeting 87 CMR will be the main access to the building. Depending on the cost, it may be a covered ramp. The elevator will be a later phase.

Per their agreement with the Access Board, each phase must be 100% compliant before that section can be opened to the public. They asked if the Commission would draft a letter stating they had appeared in front of the Commission and that the Commission is not opposed to their plans. Commission Pianka will draft a letter for the next meeting.

2. Peter Miller, Director, Office of Community Development for the City of Westfield

Mr. Miller stated he will be attending the Access Monitor Training in Agawam in April to assist him in applying for disability grants. He also stated we did not receive either the Transition Plan Grant or the Playground Grant but that the funds are still committed and that the City would reapply for the grants. Factors that hurt the applications were that the City chose Hampton

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Ponds Playground due to additional land being available, but the land was forested; and removal of trees was a negative. Also one of the focuses this year was Splash Parks, and due to the proximity to Hampton Ponds that was not an item considered for the disability park. There will be an additional park for consideration in the next grant which would be Cross Street. The City Council has authorized an account for fund raising. They anticipated the spending of \$500,000.00. But it is apparent that this figure needs to be increased.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

a. Chair's Corner

Chair Nicoletti stated that there will be a Community Access Monitor Training session in April. Any Commissioners that have not attended should try to do so.

b. 2018 Election of Officers

Commissioner Smith made a motion to table elections until the next meeting when additional members were in attendance. There was no second motion made, so voting continued.

2018 Commission Chair: 3 votes for Commissioner Nicoletti, 0 votes for Commissioner Kanavaros; 1 obtain. None of the absent Commissioners had submitted absentee votes.

Commissioner Nicoletti was elected the 2018 Chair.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Pianka motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gosselin; all in favor 4/0. Chair Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, for Acting Secretary, Joanne B. Tirrell



Norman H. Smith III



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