

Planning & Sustainability - City of Northampton

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Disability Commission Minutes Tuesday April 11, 2023 4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Members

Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councilor Marianne LaBarge <input type="checkbox"/>	Keith Benoit, Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emma Cornwell, Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy Sugihara <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathy Murri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linda Kakos <input type="checkbox"/>	Marilyn Clare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rodney Kunath <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Morton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Chair, gave notice that the meeting was being recorded and then took roll call.
2. Public comments were asked, no public comments were given.
3. March 14th, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote, motioned by Michael Morton seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs. Emma Cornwell mentioned a correction of something that she said that she wanted to be corrected, which will be fixed prior to posting.
4. Keith Benoit, staff gave a presentation on edits to the “On- and Off-Street Accessible Parking Ordinance”, § 312-117. Schedule XVI seeking approval from the Disability Commission. The analysis of the ordinance started as an audit of the ordinance and the physical parking spaces to see where the City is in compliance with ADA requirements for parking, but will also be critical for cleaning up the schedule ahead of the Main street redesign. The physical spaces did not match what the ordinance says and the language of the ordinance can be cleaned up.
5. Disability Commission approved the edits to “On- and Off-Street Accessible Parking Ordinance” and send to the City Council/ Transportation & Parking Commission. Motioned by Michael Morton and seconded by Rodney Kunath, approve unanimously by a roll call vote.
6. There was a discussion on raising money for the parade. The revolving funds set aside from fees from people parking in accessible parking spaces cannot be used. The parade is not within the spirit of what the funds are set aside for. Amy



Sugihara asked who set up the original language for revolving fund, do other Disability Commissions in the state have access to funds and if so, how do they spend funds. Amy Sugihara also mentioned that we are taking in more money than we are spending and asked how the City could revisit the parameters around the revolving funds and what is the process for that. Keith Benoit said that any approval would need to go through the Planning Director, Finance Director, and City Council and at this point, there is not support from the City staff to amend the uses of revolving funds. Amy Sugihara said she had some hesitation on getting the parade complete before July, there are concerns for raising money and just planning in general. There was some consensus that planning this before July would be too soon.

7. Keith Benoit, staff gave an update on the Draft proclamation language recognizing July as Disability Pride Month. The Mayor is supportive and may do some edits to the language in the proclamation.
8. Amy Sugihara brought up the flyer for letting people know of the movie in July. Jeremy Macomber-Dubs said that he would be helpful. Emma Cornwell had some questions regarding paying for the flyers and what the content of the flyers would be. Several members volunteered to be on a subcommittee to create a flyer.
9. For Next Meeting:
 - Discuss unpaved accessible trails legislation – invite Meg Bandara
 - Procedure for raising money
10. Meeting was adjourned unanimously with a motion by Michael Morton and seconded by Rodney Kunath at 5:19 PM.