

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21st, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes; Fred Isaacs, Vice-Chair; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell; Megan O'Halloran; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun.

AUDIENCE- Charles Rose from Charles Rose Architects, Robert Corning from Stantec, to talk about the Athena project; David Leon; and Ken Woodland from Watertown Prosperity.

GUEST SPEAKERS- Ken Woodland spoke about the snow shoveling community service program that has run the last 3 years out of the middle school. It has been very successful with increased numbers of kids and residents signing up. They will start to add a spring clean-up program and start extending it to highschoolers, and eventually to other job opportunities for kids. He is hoping for \$1500 in support again from the Commission. We will address this next meeting.

Athena Health- Bob Corning deals with site planning, permitting, civil engineering, and Charles Rose is a design architect. They presented plans for accessible parking in the complex- present, phase 1, and final plan, and asked for our feedback about the number and location of parking spaces. John had given them earlier feedback that spaces would be better utilized spread throughout surface parking rather than in the garages, and changes were made in response.

CHAIR'S REPORT-

- 1) Discussion and vote for funding the audio description at the New Rep Theatre. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to approve the New Rep Theatre funding request of \$4000, specifically \$1500 for the loop system and \$2500 for audio description for a play.
- 2) John attended an event introducing a new app called Blindways, helping blind people to navigate the public transportation system, including finding a bus stop and knowing when buses will come. It is crowd sourced, with individuals giving input. Google gave Perkins money to create the app. San Francisco will be the next city.
- 3) Kim mentioned that there is a new MBTA pilot program joining forces with Uber and Lyft for paratransit on demand. It is the first such program in the country.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the minutes from the July meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's Office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- We are in a new fiscal year. There was a question of whether we needed an interpreter for Faire on the Square. Carol M. said she'd send out an email, but that it was probably too late to get one. Gayle said supplies were in place for the Faire, and volunteers to staff the table were requested, with Fred, Carol M and Carol W volunteering. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for July. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- Nothing more other than what we heard earlier tonight.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Gayle reported there were no problems with the meeting last Tuesday. Mark reported it was going great.
- 3) Special Ed- No report. Kim had gotten a letter about helping with contrast striping for stairs at the high school, and it was agreed that maintenance could manage that project. Kim gave them information.
- 4) Safety and Access- Lisa was concerned about pedestrian access to the Irving and Arsenal intersection due to construction, and availability of accessible parking on Arsenal St., and was meeting with DPW, Steve Magoon, Mark Sideris. Kim said advocacy was needed and that Perkins staff was being given regular updates.

NEW BUSINESS-

Carol M. wants to invite Carolyn Hall from The Institute For Community Inclusion to come talk in November.

Gayle is inviting Steve Magoon to come in October to continue the discussion of our role and its timing in the review process of development projects, and improve communication.

Gayle mentioned a letter from Watertown resident Mohammed Sayed who has created an organization called RimPower, advocating for wheelchair users.

Lisa noted that WCOD meetings were not showing up on the Town Calendar. Gayle will investigate.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on October 19th at 7 p.m.

These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Carol Wilson-Braun, Secretary.

