

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 17th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

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

Guests- Bridget Kathleen O'Leary- Associate Artistic Director of the New Repertory Theatre, Lorne Batman from the New Rep Theatre, who oversees sales for the Educational Touring Program; Charles Dickenson and Ruth Thomasian from The World in Watertown, and Christine Russo, our new intern.

GUEST SPEAKERS- Bridget O'Leary spoke about New Rep Theatre's Educational Touring Program, which has a relationship with Perkins. They perform at senior centers, public and private schools, with a typical performance costing \$3000, but they charge \$1200 with donations from funders. They come to perform a show at Perkins for around 60-70 students (mostly high school) and 10-15 adults from a book group, and charge Perkins \$600. Their production at Perkins includes an audio describer which costs an additional \$1200, so their true cost is \$2400. Perkins has requested a 2nd show this year, Of Mice and Men. So the New Rep Theatre is coming to the Commission to request assistance in the amount of \$1200 to cover the audio describer. The Commission will discuss and vote in January.

Charles Dickenson spoke about the upcoming Watertown Unity Breakfast on Martin Luther King Day in January. He described the program and said they use CART services for hearing impaired people, which costs \$405. He requested funding from the Commission for that amount. The Commission will discuss and vote in January. Ruth Thomasian wondered how to get more elderly and disabled to come. It was suggested they advertise at the senior center. Kim stated that Perkins has its own breakfast.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim followed up on Brian Charlson's presentation last meeting. It was MOVED, seconded and voted, with Kim abstaining, to approve reimbursement of \$350.15 for the fire extinguishers for training at the Bay State Council for the Blind. Secondly, Kim mentioned that Rachel Natale has had to step down from the Commission due to health issues, but hopes to come back at some point. So there is still a vacancy on the Commission. Our new member Megan O'Halloran was ill and couldn't come tonight. Thirdly, Kim brought up a concern that the audible signal on one corner of Lexington and Main is 25 ft. from the crosswalk. She is corresponding with the state.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle said she would look more closely at our credits vs debits. Steve suggested separating out our regular expenses like CART and look at what is left. Fred mentioned that there had been talk of finding a sponsor for CART, and there was discussion on possible candidates including cable. Fred wondered about expanded hours and funding for the social worker. It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

No reports for Plans Review, Safety and Access (covered in Chair's report) or Website update.

- a) Closed Caption- Stefanie said there were still problems with captioning at the town council meetings. The captions weren't showing up on cable. We will continue to have problems until Comcast comes in. Carol M. will talk to Helen. Stefanie wondered about working remotely from home, and said she would talk to folks in Cambridge about it. They were using Caption First. Carol will reach out to Caption First about costs and what would be required of our local cable station.
- b) Special Ed- Fred said that in the Nov and Dec meetings, Mr Samaria taught first aid and CPR for caregivers. They underwrote the fee so it was free for caregivers. On Jan 8th, Dr David Perna will speak on anger management.

ONGOING BUSINESS-

- a) Watertown Waterfront project- Kim said that the walking path is open and the guide ropes and Braille signs will be complete in the spring.
- b) Handicapped Parking Locations- Gayle reported that the DPW will work at school locations next, depending on the weather.
- c) Comprehensive Plan Update- Kim said we should prioritize items and she will send out John's list again so we can discuss next meeting.
- d) Delta Draft Letter to MBTA- Kim said that they are waiting for T response to John's letter which was sent out. The letter was copied to the Access Advisory Committee to the T.

NEW BUSINESS-

- a) Fred suggested that we cooperate with the Watertown Community Foundation, as we often have projects in common. He may invite a representative from WCF to our January meeting and will let Kim know. Kim also suggested talking to Michael Schade.
- b) Gayle talked with the auditor about our grant of \$1000 to Watertown Prosperity. Are they a vendor or non-profit? Kim confirmed non-profit.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. Jan. 21st at 7 p.m.

It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

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