

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Kim Charlson, Chair.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; John Hawes; Fred Isaacs, Vice-Chair; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell; Megan O'Halloran and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Mohammad (Mo) Sayed and Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator. Audience- Maya French.

Guest speaker- Maya French, executive director of Palaver Strings. Palaver Strings is a 12 person musician-led ensemble, non-profit organization which seeks to bring music to diverse audiences. They offer concerts and workshops in various locations and will be giving a concert at First Parish in Watertown this Saturday at 8 p.m. They are also working with Watertown Special Ed to specifically target children with autism and will be giving a workshop tomorrow at WMS to 25 children focusing on non-verbal communication and feeling emotions through music and other media. The focus will be on love, anger and sadness. They have obtained funding through grants for most of their costs, but are requesting \$500 from WCOD. Kim told her that we would vote next month and the money would come the following month.

CHAIR'S REPORT- No report, except Kim shared that she got her cast off and just came back from a trip to Hawaii.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for January. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Plans Review- John said in 2 weeks, the next phase of the Arsenal Yards would be moving forward for approval. Kin mentioned that the City of Boston's COD is watching housing development plans carefully because they found developers were trying to put all of the accessible units in one of multiple buildings. Accessible housing needs to be available all across the "footprint" in all types of housing. John said the Morse St project is not back to the planning board yet. An accessible entrance may be an issue.

Closed Captioning- Carol M. said it is going well. It is time to develop a plan for off-loading the fee to the community, with sponsors like WSB. Megan said she could help get word out and do outreach to potential business sponsors.

Special Ed- Fred said there is nothing new. Kim said there is no update on Elan's appointment to the commission. It is likely still pending.

Safety and Access- Kim said there were no updates.

NEW BUSINESS-

Lisa spoke about the new accessible website design process. There was a kick-off meeting with the sub-sites: DPW, recreation, library, police and fire departments, discussing design, goals and feedback. They plan to also address content and functionality in an upcoming meeting. Kim said she would find people to give feedback. Town commissions will be under the town website. COD will give feedback along the way.

John asked if we could have the director of the Watertown Community Foundation come for a meeting. Kim said that we were trying for April or May.

Finally, there was a suggestion to compile a handout about the WCOD, and past projects and events we are involved in, particularly to hand out at Faire on the Square. Megan suggested including quotes from thank you notes we receive. We will get volunteers to do this closer to the end of the fiscal year.

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

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

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