

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 20th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; 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. Absent- Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor

Audience- Jillian Smith, Development Manager and Heather Darrow, Development Director from the New Repertory Theatre.

GUEST SPEAKERS- Jillian and Heather spoke of the 2 accessibility initiatives being worked on currently by the New Rep Theatre. One is a T coil hearing loop in the Mosesian Theatre that allows people with cochlear implants and other hearing devices to hear better. The actors will wear lapel microphones. They have an audiology consultant. The Mass Cultural Facilities Fund requires matching funds and they have raised most of the \$32,250 that they need, but are requesting \$1500 from the Commission. They would also like our input regarding publicity. Kim wanted to make sure they put a permanent advertisement or announcement about it in their programs. The 2nd project is the audio description for the Fiddler on the Roof production this fall. They will have one or 2 performances and will underwrite tickets. They are asking for \$2500. John asked about the involvement of the Arsenal Center for the Arts, and they assured us that the ACA has been working along with them the entire way and that the New Rep were the ones that applied for the grant. Kim explained that although it seemed to be the sense of the Commission that we supported the request, we would not vote until our next meeting which will be in Sept. She will write a letter expressing our intention of support so they could meet the deadline for the matching funds.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Kim announced the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the Braille Trail this Thursday 7/21 at 10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Charles River Rd and Irving St. Kim and John will attend.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- Gayle mentioned that the closed captioning for the town council meetings will be billed on a monthly basis, at \$140/hr at 15 min increments for an estimated 2-2 ½ hr meeting, which is comparable to CART, maybe a little less. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for June. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans- John said that several new projects are coming up, such as the Arsenal Mall and Pleasant St, and he will report next meeting. The athena master plan was approved on Monday night with 70 accessible parking spaces, more than the 42 required by MAAB. John asked for the spaces to be spread around more and not concentrated in the parking garage. He wants the COD to see the plans before they are finalized, and said he'd talk to Steve Magoon. Gayle said Mark Blair from athena would be the person to come talk to us. She also said that the master plan for the Arsenal on the Charles is on the town's website. Steve Magoon can come in Oct to talk to us about the role of COD in strategic planning and community development.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Gayle said at 3 p.m. on August 9th the system would be tested, and that everyone has been connected.
- 3) Special Ed and Safety and Access- No reports.

NEW BUSINESS- none

It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on September 21st at 7 p.m. There will be no meeting in August.

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