

Meeting called to order @ 6:42 p.m. by Nichole Mossalam.

At 6:40, Maria Luise read the COVID Statement from Governor Baker.

This meeting was Live Streamed by a resident.

During this meeting, the closed captioning was turned on for Zoom. Nichole reminded the members that all need to speak slower.

- 1. Roll Call of Committee Members:** Maria Luise, Nichole Mossalam, Kerlyne Pacombe, Marilyn Andrews, Amanda Belles, Frank Cina, Chukwuka Ezewuzie, Lauren Schipper, Shanti Chilkuri were present. Kerlyne Pacombe was not present.

Maria Luise read the COVID statement from Governor Baker. She announced that the Governor has extended the Emergency Order to allow remote meetings to continue through April 2022.

- 2. Approval of the minutes from the May 13, 2021 Meeting.**

The vote on the approval of the minutes from May 13, 2021 was tabled until the next meeting since two Commissioners had edits to these minutes for Marilyn to adjust. Motion to table the May 13, 2021 Minutes until the next Commission meeting so Marilyn could make the edits to these minutes in time for the next meeting. This Motion to table the vote on the May 13, 2021 Minutes was made by Frank and seconded by Chukwuka. All were in favor.

- 3. Any updates or action items that need to be addressed from the previous meeting.**

- Discussion of In-Person meetings and whether to authorize remote participation of members per M.G.L.c.30A € , 20 (e): a local commission on disability may by majority of vote of the commissioners at a regular meeting authorize remote participation applicable to a specific meeting or generally to all of the commissioner's meetings. If a local commission on disability is authorized to utilize remote participation, a physical quorum of that commission's members shall not be required to be present at the meeting location, however, that the chair or, in the chair's absence, the person authorized to chair the meeting, shall be physically present at the meeting location. The commission shall comply with all other requirements of the law.**

Nichole read Ch. 38 to the Commission members. Amanda raised the issue about this law applying to only to the members of the Commission. Marilyn clarified that this applies only to the Commissioners and not to the public at large. Nichole responded with the suggestion of looking at this situation to see how this is being addressed with other commissions. She also said once our Commission has this information, it should be passed and added to the Disability Commission By-Laws. Chukwuka asked if the difference is the Chair does not have to be physically

present during the Governor's extension. Nichole agreed with this statement, and added that it might be a good idea to practice having the Chair in the physical location during this extension period. Amanda asked how to add this to our By-Laws. Frank asked if other commissioners in addition to the Chair could attend the Commission meeting during this time. Nichole answered, "Yes." Maria made a Motion to move to adopt Mass. General Law Ch. 38 Section 20B so that Commissioners can participate remotely when there is an In-Person meeting. Frank seconded this Motion. All were in favor. This would allow the Chair of the Disability Commission to be physically present at the location of the Disability Commission meeting during the Governor's extension to make meetings more accessible.

• **Discuss strategy for reviewing ADA Self-Evaluation Report**

Nichole posed the question to the Commissioners for suggestions on some ways for how the ADA Self-Evaluation Report can be reviewed. The commissioners discussed several options for next steps. Maria suggested that in each meeting the members focus on one area. Maria also noted that there is a grant from a State commission to support projects. The grant information will be available on August 2, 2021 and is due October 2, 2021. Frank suggested that the most critical areas need to be done first. Nichole asked that members take time to read through the full evaluation and at the next Commission meeting, each member should identify the critical areas so the Commission can apply for grants right away. Chukwuka said the members should individually look at the report for discussion for the next meeting. Lauren suggested to review the evaluation recommendations that are categorized with letters A-D, to see which has the most impact, and outline it from there. Marilyn suggests that between now and the next Commission meeting, based on our talents and strengths, we split out into subcommittees to tackle it all, it could take a couple of months to digest, and work on their own and report **back every month**. Amanda suggests that priority #1 should be what projects each member wants to do and apply for grant funding for. Nichole suggested that a collaborative approach is used and all members find the areas of the evaluation that each would like to spearhead and tackle. She also discussed that subcommittees include appropriate city departments. Lauren suggested that the members look to combining any cross-over projects. Nichole suggested that the deadline for formation of subcommittees is the next Commission meeting with the final recommendations to be at the September Commission meeting. Commissioners are welcome to email Nichole and Maria with the area that they would like to be involved in. At the next Commission meeting, there will be a vote for the formation of subcommittees and to pick a chair for each subcommittee.

• **Update on AAC Boards for K-8 playgrounds.**

Marilyn noted that the contract has been signed. Maria shared that the City has purchased the license for the template. The designer for the template will talk to the sign company and the DPW will install once they are ready.

Boards will be placed in the Early Learning Center and K-8 playgrounds. The School Principals are excited.

- **Schedule forum for Emergency Preparedness with representative from Mass Office on Disability for August.**

Discussion was centered around whether this should be presented In-Person or remote. Amanda suggested that this be done in both ways to make the program more accessible. Maria answered that this program can be done in both manners. Marilyn also asked how will Commission meetings be scheduled for the summer? Will there just be one summer meeting? Nichole suggested that the Emergency Preparedness Meeting date changed from an August 2021 date to September 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall with remote access. Frank makes a Motion to have the Emergency Preparedness meeting on September 22, 2021 at 6:30 at City Hall with remote access. Chukwuka seconded the Motion. All were in favor.

- **Update on research of meeting agendas for Boards and Commissions, City Council, etc. as to whether they are including ADA language.**

Amanda reviewed numerous agendas for the City Boards and Commissions as well as City Council. She reported that she did not find one without the inclusion of ADA Language and requirement to have accommodations. Maria shared that this is part of the standard template for City notices. Kathleen Manning-Hall sends regular reminders to the Chairs of Boards and Commissions to make sure the statement is included. When there is a question, Maria will follow-up with a reminder with any Chair that has not included this. Maria still needs to look at the website. Ron Cochran has reviewed with the ADA and is making the recommended adjustments.

- **Update of CDBG fund and process (Councilor Winslow)**

Nichole is working on a date to have Councilor Steve Winslow attend a Commission meeting.

The intersection of Hancock and Belmont Streets was discussed. Maria is working with the City Engineer and the City Engineer will speak to Everett City Engineer and to Steve Winslow. They will be addressing placing an audible signal at this intersection.

4. New Business.

- Amanda reported that she attended the Wellington Circle Study that was held on June 24, 2021 via Zoom. This was a meeting with the focus of a multi-modal transportation network. Amanda shared that the purpose is also to make this area safer for people of every ability. Amanda will reach out to area Disability Commissions, including Somerville and Medford, to discuss

their involvement in this study. Final recommendations will be made in July 2022.

- Maria reported that work is being done on Center Street with dedicated bus lanes and updated intersections.
- Marilyn mentioned the Massachusetts Office on Disability's Level Up Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. The topic is "Effective Communication." Link is below. All are welcome to attend.
<https://www.mass.gov/event/levelup-to-equality-quarterly-webinar-2021-07-20t110000-0400-2021-07-20t121500-0400>

5. Public Comment: No Public Comment was made.

6. Scheduling of next meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held on July 15, 2021 @ 6:30 via Zoom and the option of being In-Person at City Hall.

7. Adjournment: Marilyn made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Chukwuka seconded it. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn R. Andrews, Clerk

Amanda Belles, Commission Member

If you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Maria Luise, ADA Compliance Coordinator at mluise@cityofmaiden.org or 781-397-7000, EXT 2005.