

## **Andover Commission on Disability—November 30, 2016 Committee Meeting**

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, at 6:35 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

**Present** Chair Julie Pike, Stephen Surette, Bernadette Lionetta, Justin Coppola Sr., Justin Coppola Jr., and guests Carlene Bell Flanagan and Director of Plant and Facilities Ed Ataide

**Minutes** Stephen made a motion to accept the October 26, 2016 meeting minutes and Bernadette seconded. Unanimously approved.

### **Call to order**

**High Plain Elementary and Wood Middle School playground accessibility**—Ms. Bell-Flanagan, the parent of an 11 year old at the Wood Hill Middle school (her son started as a kindergartener at the High Plain) outlined for the commission an area of ongoing concern. She described the lay-out of the school(s), and three soccer fields which have been in place since 2002. To access the soccer fields, students must descend a fairly steep slope—which Bell-Flanagan has carried her son up and down over the years so that he can participate. During this time she notified various school and town administrators of how this problem made games and programs non-inclusive to individuals with perambulatory or access issues-- but nothing has been done to correct this problem to date.

Ms. Bell-Flanagan noted that the School committee has done a walk- through of the area, Ed Ataide has hired a landscape architectural firm that specializes in access issues to do a study(Lemon Brooke Landscape Architecture), and she has met with Town Manger Andrew Flanagan in the hope of seeing this issue addressed in 2018.

Although Ms. Bell-Flanagan acknowledged that Town Manager Flanagan has included study funds in the 2019 budget this is not acceptable to Ms. Bell Flanagan. Her ultimate objective is for the School Committee to shift funding from other things in their budget toward this study for FY18.

Mr. Ataide noted that study funding is likely to increase by \$100K since the 2015 projections and that the \$450K study proposal is roughly half the entire School Committee budget. He also noted that auditory and safety compliance issues are part of the current proposed school committee budget. The FY18 CIP process is finished for this year and calculated based on the existing tax levy.

Bernadette noted that we should find out what legal ramifications are involved in this access/non-inclusive issue before going forward.

Ms. Bel-Flanaganl asked for suggestions about how to get this study taken care of for this year.

Julie and members thanked Ms. Bell-Flanagan for her input and told her that the issue needed to be discussed further.

## **Old Business – Updates**

**Spot Checks: Pot Holes and other related road and side walk issues**—Justin Jr. noted that a sidewalk on River street has red tactile pads rather than the required yellow pads. **Action Item: Stephen said there is already a request to change tactile pads from red to yellow.**

**Vacancies:** Joe Connolly will not be able to join ACOD as he is not a resident of Andover.

### **My Own Voice request for students and families to go to Tanglewood:**

Bernadette gave a brief overview of her request for funding “My Own Voice”—the children’s chorus she has been involved with for a number of years, to attend an annual Tanglewood concert. She asked that the commission fund \$1500 so that this group and their families may be transported to and attend a concert. Justin Sr. made a motion: *A motion to fund in the amount of \$1500, so that “My Own Voice” will be able to experience a concert with their families at Tanglewood. Amount to include transportation, tickets and snacks.* Stephen seconded. Unanimously approved.

## **New Business:**

Bylaw review—Julie said by-laws need to be updated. **Action Item: Bernadette offered to review the by-laws to correct outdated or otherwise incorrect information.**

MOD conference call on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11-Noon Julie invited commission to follow instructions to call in for this conference call.

### **Announcements:**

Cable Accessibility Forum—Let Julie know if anyone wants to go. It is at 10 Park Plaza in the Transportation Board Room, Boston MA. Friday, December 16. RSVP by 12/14 to [DTCRSVP@state.ma.us](mailto:DTCRSVP@state.ma.us)

**Adjournment:** At 7:50 p.m. Bernadette made a motion to adjourn and Justin Sr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Next meeting:*

**January 25, 2017 at 6:30 pm**

Respectfully Submitted

Susan McKelliget