

Andover Commission on Disability

After the agenda was duly posted and distributed, the meeting was convened on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level.

Present: Co-Chairs Sarah Paterson and Jennifer Samaras, Bernadette Lionetta, Maddy St. Amand, Julie Pike, Donna Gorzega, Justin Coppola Jr., and Ruth Rosensweig. **Also Present:** Former Chair Justin Coppola Sr.

Minutes: Maddy made a motion to correct the April 29, 2015 minutes in paragraph 5 of New Business as follows: delete the words “ *She also noted a warrant regarding liquor licensing for proposed outdoor dining at the Village Square site.* Insert the following: *Maddy offered to follow up with Chris Clemente regarding the use of our handout which lists the outdoor furniture requirements to be ADA compliant. She will also review with him the policy he proposed about tying it in with liquor license permits.* Julie made motion to accept the April minutes as corrected and Ruth seconded.

Old Business – Updates

- **Spot Checks:** A discussion on pot holes and other related road and side walk issues, including curb cut issue at Taylor Cove Drive, was postponed as Stephen was not available to provide updates. Justin Sr asked that the commission include an *Action Item* as a reminder that there are still handicap signs that need to go up.
- **Website updates:** Sarah reported that she and Jen met with Dean Baumeister from MHL, on website design and will work together on the ADA template and text for ACOD The plan is to design the text for accessibility while content will be adjusted as needed by ACOD. The proposed site will be reviewed by the commission when complete. Discussion about content included putting the meeting minutes on the website as well as notices about upcoming meetings and events.
- **Town Manager Screening Committee--**As noted in the April minutes, Sarah applied to be on this committee but among a number of other applicants was not selected. She noted that she

had an opportunity during the selection process to speak with at least three Selectmen about the role and mission of ACOD, and this led to productive discourse about the commission. The Co-Chairs plan to follow up with the new town manager and town officials as early as possible to continue this conversation.

- **Outdoor Dining License Issue/Parking Violations--**Maddy reported on two previous action items, the first being a meeting with Inspector of Buildings Chris Clemente. There is currently no “official policy” on ADA-compliant furniture and Maddy gave him the ACOD pamphlet-- a source of information on this type of furniture --noting that a number of up-town restaurants are considering out-door dining and such a list would be useful for their planning purposes. One of the outcomes of this meeting, was that Chris will keep ACOD in the loop regarding future interdepartmental review meetings.

Maddy also sent a letter to Police Chief Keefe about a discussion a year or so ago, regarding handicap placard parking abuse-- particularly the prevalent use of handicap placards by persons other than the placard recipient. Last year there was some discussion about possibly dedicating officers on a part time basis to track violations and enforce the fines which can be a minimum of \$500 per violation. Maddy also brought up a recent news article about handicap parking violations at the Burlington Mall which referenced a study of the issue and recommendations for enforcement and possible officer training with respect to violations. Justin Sr. Provided the commission with the following web site: <http://www.wsvn.com/story/29019337/handicap-placard-misuse-a-cause-for-concern-in-burlington> *Action Item: ACOD is interested in assisting the police department if needed to assess the scope and impact of handicap parking violations in Andover with the idea of reporting data to the local papers if relevant as part of its community awareness and advocacy of disability issues mission.*

New Business

- **Budgetary spend down--**Sarah spoke with Ed Ataide and Jen met with Ellen Towson who serves on the Andover

Conservation Commission regarding outstanding funding needs for the Ballardvale playground which when fully operational will be the only playground/park in town designed to be fully ADA compliant. Compliance includes equipment such as swings, with a “clamshell” feature and paved areas leading to ball courts and the like. After discussion of the areas of the playground not fully paid for to date, the commission discussed whether to approve monies to be earmarked for certain ADA compliant equipment. *Vote: Bernadette made a motion to provide the Ballardvale playground with a stipend of \$5K toward the funding of such equipment. Co-Chairs will look into the possibility of obtaining a plaque naming ACOD as a donor accompanying such equipment. Maddy seconded and unanimously passed.*

- **Scheduling of next year’s meetings:** ACOD will meet on June 24th (see date below) as planned, but will not meet in July 2015. *Action Item: Sarah will cancel the activity room for July and will re-schedule the September 23 meeting to September 30th. ACOD will meet as usual for the remainder of 2015. The 2016 FY meeting dates are : January 27, 2016; February 24, March 23, April 27, May 25, and June 22, 2016.*
- **Newspaper article/Other--**Julie reported on a Townsman article announcing a special education brainstorming session on Wednesday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting is on second floor of School Committee room at Administration Building on Bartlet street. Julie distributed a copies of the final plan of “The Public Realm Park, Playstead, Municipal Complex Plan May 26, 2015.

Adjournment At 8:00 p.m Ruth made a motion to adjourn and Justin Jr. seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Next meeting: June 24th 6:30 pm
Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, Lower Level*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McKelliget