

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 14, 2015

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Ron Grenier, Andrea Mountain, Caroline Curtis, Frattie Welch, Ed Lang, and Lloyd Caswell.

Approve Minutes of April 9, 2015 Meeting: Lang moved to approve minutes; motion seconded by Curtis. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Update on Devereux Beach Playground: Blaisdell reported that a day earlier she and members Lang and Curtis had met with the Park and Rec Director at the site to go over the installation of mats to make accessibility more feasible. Blaisdell said agreement was reached on where the access points should be located. However, the type of product to be purchased and the length of some mats was something that still had to be run by the Park and Rec Commission. Blaisdell will be going before that board to explain our preferences. The other issue which Blaisdell reported on was that Park and Rec is going to locate handicap parking spaces all together near the entry way to the parking lot. All agreed the new location for such spaces would be preferable to the current configuration. In addition, it was agreed that Blaisdell will speak to Park and Rec about properly training personnel who work the entry booth o remind them that legally handicap non-residents are free to use our handicap parking lot spaces to access the beach and playground.

Old Burial Hill Steps Renovation: Grenier reported that he had received a proposed plan for this project for which he handed out copies to all. He indicated that the town would be seeking a waiver from the state's Public Safety Architectural Access Board because of serious challenges posed by the amount of ledge, grading, and ancient graves at the site. All agreed that the topographical conditions do pose difficult problems. However, several members did suggest that for persons with mobility issues who are non-wheelchair bound accessibility could be significantly improved; if railings were installed on both sides of the steps instead of only as proposed on one side. Grenier said he would send the town planner an e-mail with this feedback. Meanwhile, he thinks Curran will come to our next meeting in June to further discuss the cemetery steps project and the installation of a stage lift at Abbott Hall auditorium.

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Accessibility Information/Resources: Blaisdell shared with the Commission several pieces of contact information that could be helpful resources in obtaining accessibility related services programs:

(<http://www.latimes.com/travel/deals/la-tr-spot-20150322-story.html>) This is a link to Accessible Living's guide to finding airlines' disability accommodations as a free resource. This guide covers 15 US and Canadian airlines and provides further contact information.

North Shore Adaptive Sports Fair: Call 1-877-976-7272 to register for summer programs. Ask for Mark Priest

Cerebral Palsy Guide: Blaisdell reported that their outreach team has asked to post this guide on our web page which all agreed was a good idea. We also agreed this and the above should be posted on the Commission's Facebook page as a way of sharing information to the greater community.

Remote Participation in Commission Meetings: Per changes to the state Open Meeting Law the Commission voted to permit remote participation during all commission meetings. Grenier made this motion; seconded by Welch. **VOTE: 6-0.**

No August Meeting: Grenier so moved; Mountain seconded. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Adjourn: Caswell motioned to conclude the meeting; motion seconded by Welch. **VOTE: 6-0.**

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11th. In addition to Becky Curran coming to this meeting we anticipate our ADA Coordinator, Kyle Wiley, to discuss the status of items we raised with Town Administrator, John McGinn in our April meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
Ron Grenier