

Marblehead Disabilities Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2022

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Amy Hirschkron, Andrea Mountain, Rich Ramos,
Samantha Marino, Cheryl LaLonde, Ed Lang, Sue Harris
Guests Present: Nancy Powell

Laurie called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Andrea, seconded by Samantha, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting.

2. Harbor Matters Updates

Harbor Lift: Amy reported on the status of the harbor lift and plans for the dedication ceremony, scheduled for June 23 at 10 a.m. The lift, lift cover, and instructional sign have been delivered. Mark Souza will install the needed transition plate for the State Street dock this week. The Commission approved the proposed June 23, 10 a.m. date and time for the dedication ceremony. Amy will send Laurie the current list of invitees, which includes Town officials and local news media; any additions are welcome. Amy described the plan for the ceremony. Laurie will follow up on the need for a few chairs, and Samantha agreed to take photographs at the ceremony. Donna Rice, who is helping with publicity for the Harbor lift, will purchase for the Commission's use 100 buttons with a logo design gifted to the Commission by a friend of Amy's. (See #5 below.)

Harbor Working Group: Laurie attended the public meeting of this group on May 16, the purpose of which was to solicit public comment on priorities. For the Harbor. The meeting was not available remotely. Amy will check on whether a Zoom public meeting will be held, as was previously agreed by the Working Group's consultant.

3. Town Map of Accessible Locations. Sue reported that a brochure listing accessible Marblehead locations is almost complete and thanked all members who have provided feedback. Sue will add the new Commission logo (see below) to the first page. The Commission approved the printing of 1,000 copies of the final brochure at a cost of approximately \$130 (plus folding if needed) to be paid for from the Commission's handicapped parking violations fund. The brochures will be distributed by the Chamber of Commerce at its office and at the Information Booth. Laurie and Sue will confer about folding the brochures, either using a machine Laurie has access to or paying the printer about \$30 to do that work. Samantha suggested making the brochure available on the Commission's website and perhaps creating a QR code linking to this site to be posted at the Chamber's locations. The Commission agreed to pursue the best way to enact that option.

4. Disabilities Commission Future Meetings. Laurie reminded the Commission that the Open Meeting Law exception allowing fully remote meetings expires in July. Although the law allows disabilities commissions to vote to make all meetings virtual, it requires that the meeting chair be present at a physical location so that the public can attend. Laurie agreed to pursue finding a location that will allow us to make future meetings available remotely.

5. Disabilities Commission Logo. Sam reached out to some local school contacts about having students design a logo without success to date. Amy showed the Commission a logo that a friend of hers designed and is willing to give to the Commission for its use in any manner it sees fit, and the Commission approved use of this logo.

6. Village Plaza Accessibility: Laurie sent a letter to the owners of Village Plaza requesting that they install a sign on the door to the ramp to the upper level indicating that it is an accessible entrance, install a notice of the location of this ramp at the base of all stairs leading to the second level, and notify all tenants of the Plaza of the availability and location of the ramp. She has not received a response and will follow up.

7. New Business.

Devereux Beach Playground. Rich received an email, copied to the Park & Rec director among others, regarding the need for an accessible swing at the Devereux Beach playground. Laurie mentioned that there already is an accessible swing there. The Commission will leave this concern to the Park & Rec director to handle for now.

Fort Sewell Opening. Ed said that the renovated Fort Sewell official opening will be on June 18 from 10-2. Laurie encouraged Commission members to attend.

Upon motion by Sue, seconded by Andrea, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Harris, Commission Member

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: 7/14/2022