



Marblehead Disabilities Commission

Meeting Minutes – December 15th., 2022

Members Present: Laurie Blaisdell, Katie Farrell, Amy Hirschcron (*remote*), Ed Lang (*remote*), Samantha Marino (*remote*), Andrea Mountain (*remote*)

Members Absent: Cheryl LaLonde

Guests Present: Nancy Powell (*remote*), Pamela Daly (*remote*)

Ms. Blaisdell called the meeting to order at 4:26 p.m.

1. Upon motion by Ms. Hirschcron, seconded by Ms. Farrell, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 13th, 2022 meeting. It was noted that the meeting planned for November 10th 2022, was canceled, therefore there are no minutes from November.

2. Collins Center Presentation. Mr. Mike Edwards and Ms. Marcia Birmingham from Collins Jr. Center for Public Management presented to the commission their plan in helping to facilitate an ADA transition plan for the town of Marblehead. The Collins Center is a state entity under UMASS Boston, consulting for local governments working on self-evaluation and transition plans utilizing grants outside of Massachusetts office on Disabilities that have been made available now; a financial resource that is fairly new. The Collins Center partners with KMA, an architectural firm located in Boston MA, to look at problematic issues through not only an architectural lens, but also at the programmatic side to identify areas of need and see what may be addressed with the limited resources available.

Mr. Edwards explained the process of their work, identifying key components:

Public Input: Public Input Survey Tool will be launched the first week of January and open for a minimum of 30 days via Survey Monkey. Topics include: General demographics, access to buildings, access to outdoor facilities, pedestrian access, program access, and access to communications/public meetings. This will be disseminated through direct contact with various stakeholders throughout town. Mr. Edwards expressed interest in liking assistance in pushing out the survey link to as many members of the community as possible. Ms. Blaisdell offered an idea of potentially sending representatives to the elderly communities to assist in taking the survey, and Ms. Hirschcron stating she will post the survey link to the town Facebook pages. Ms. Marino will post the link to the Commission's Instagram account as well. Mr. Edwards explained that further engagement with the Disability Commission will ensue in regard to plan development and policy/procedures. It was noted that there will be a public comment period twice during the process: once the plan is drafted and then again on the final document. The public comment period will consist of the Center collecting feedback via letters, phone calls. A public forum in a physical location will not occur.

Self-Evaluation of Programs & Services: Areas to be reviewed include: Review of Title II administrative requirements including public notice, ADA coordinator, grievance procedures, and



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self-evaluation. Departments in town had received a questionnaire in November to inventory their programs & services, policies and practices.

Facilities Audits: Audits will occur on facilities from a list provided by the town. Concern arose regarding the list being non-comprehensive as it appeared to be excluding the Brown School, and public harbors.

Website Audit: An audit of the town website and its related pages, social media, public meetings, and public communications will occur.

Draft and Final Document Process & Next Steps: All audits will be combined into a findings report and identify problem areas. Afterwards, The Collins Center will work with the town and engage in the capital planning process in how to address the needed changes going forward.

3. Fair Housing. A future discussion for the Commission will be had regarding accessory dwelling units. The proposition includes making a suggestion to appropriate stakeholders to ensure that accessory dwellings when built, are ADA compliant, while also being mindful of not excluding dwellings that would be otherwise unable to achieve full ADA compliance (e.g., ensuring that if a dwelling has the capability to be ADA compliant, it is. And if a dwelling is unable to do so, such as many dwellings within Old Town, they are not excluded from being allowed to partake in the accessory housing amendment).

4. Memorial for Rich Ramos. The Commission was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of their fellow member, Mr. Rich Ramos. Ideas were brought forward in ways to remember him, honor his love of the sea as well as his strong drive to make the waterfront an accessible place. Potential ideas included planting a tree with a plaque, as well as future projects being named after him, especially those that are related to the waterfront and harbors. Ms. Blaisdell and Ms. Hirschcron proposed to table this discussion until a later date after researching plausibility of some of the proposed ideas.

The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m upon motion by Ms. Hirschcron, and seconded by Ms. Farrell.

Next Meeting: January 12th, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Marino, Secretary and Commission Member

Approved by unanimous vote of the Commission: _____

Appendix:

Documents available upon request:

1. Collins Center PowerPoint Presentation