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| Dominick Pangallo  Mayor | **Commission on Disabilities**  City of Salem, Massachusetts  98 Washington Street, 3rd floor  Salem, Massachusetts 01970  978-619-5630 |

**MINUTES OF THE SALEM COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**February 20, 2024**

A meeting of the Salem Commission on Disabilities was held on February 20, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., via ZOOM, an online video conference call system in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.

Present on call were Chair Debra Lobsitz; Commissioners: David Moisan, Kerry Neenan, and Kate Zuraw; Mandee Spittle, Lisa Cammarata, ADA Coordinator, HR Director; Alan Hanscom, SAtv; Councilors Jeff Cohen and Megan Stoff, and Morgan Sax. Absent were Maureen McKinnon, Darren Black, Rebecca Christie, and Ezekiel Holt.

1. **Introductions/welcome**

Lobsitz called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m. and she extended a welcome to everyone. Each commissioner and invited guest introduced themselves.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of November meetings**

Due to time between meetings, Commission will approve November and February minutes at the March meeting.

1. **New Business** 
   1. **Unified Sports/Special Olympics: Michelle Flewelling**
      1. **Kate Newhall-Smith detailed that due to changes in the municipality rules sidewalks (i.e. the Derby) do not need to be closed off.**
      2. Kerry Neenan made a motion to push this topic to top of the agenda for tonight’s meeting, David Moisan seconded the motion. The commission voted unanimously in favor.
      3. Michelle joined the commission meeting to discuss the purpose of Unified Champion schools and what makes them a champion school.
      4. She reviewed what it takes to coordinate events like these in the schools and how many people from the city get involved.
      5. She showed how it creates a community within the schools and the positive impacts it has on the children.
      6. T-Shirt cost is about $2500 for students and teachers involved in the event.
      7. A motion was made by Kerry to approve up to $5000 for t-shirts and busses, a second was made by Kate and motion was carried.
   2. **Salem Skipper Accessibility**
      1. Someone mentioned to Commissioner Kerry that some of the Skipper pick up spots are inaccessible.
      2. Kerry going to reach out to David in Parking to review.
   3. **Lynn Disability Network – Lynnebago**
      1. Mandee Spittle made a motion to push this topic to the next meeting and David Moisan seconded the motion. The commission voted unanimously in favor.
   4. **Outdoor Dining**
      1. David Moisan made a motion to move this up to the next agenda item, Kerry seconded. Motion was carried.
      2. SCOD has been brought into the application process of restaurants applying for outdoor dining permits in Salem for the 2024 Season. The commission will be able to voice any concerns they have for their 2024 outdoor dining plans. Lisa Cammarata discussed with the commission how we were going to approach reviewing these applications as they are submitted.
      3. SCOD agreed to have applicants come to scheduled meetings so we can ask any questions we may have regarding their plans.
      4. Lisa to reach out to City solicitor to review process and let them know our plan. Need to know if we need to wait for other boards to make decisions prior to SCOD meeting with them.
      5. Morgan/Lisa to reach out to Commission with potential dates for additional meetings to host applicants.
2. **Old Business**
   1. **ADA Transition Plan:**
   2. Not discussed.
   3. **Project funding; Lisa Cammarata**
   4. Not discussed.
   5. **Social Media; David Moisan**
   6. Not discussed.
   7. **Pedestrian Safety; David Moisan/Darren Black**
   8. Not discussed.
   9. **SCOD representative to Salem Human Rights Coalitions/Kerry Neenan (alternates: McKinnon and Christie)**

Not discussed.

* 1. **Wheelchair Rental Program; update/follow-up** 
     1. **Lisa to speak to Stacia at Destination Salem and work with Legal/Insurance to wrap this up. Wheelchairs will be in place by Summer and definitely October.**

1. **Announcements/Questions/General discussion/ideas for future meetings**
   1. Lisa announced that she was approached by a student looking to speak to some of the Commission members about their roles here in Salem.
   2. Maureen has resigned and we are looking for someone to take her spot. They will need to apply at the mayor’s office.
2. **Next meeting:**  March 19, 2024
3. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Commission on Disabilities this evening, Spittle moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Moison. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan E. Sax

Commission Clerk

**Know your rights under the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. c. 30A §18-25**

**and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033**