

June 14, 2023 Fitchburg Disability Commission Monthly Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Commission Members:	Bill Tolos, Chair	Present
	Barbara Slattery, Vice Chair	Present
	Marshal Haneisen, Secretary	Present
	Dan Cunningham	Absent
	Doris Matte	Present
	Carolyn Quirk	Present
	Tiffany Wells	Present
	Camilla Arsenault	Present
	Amy LeBlanc	Present

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approval of May minutes. Passed – All in favor.
2. Announcements. Camilla Arsenault provided an update from a discussion at the Fitchburg Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee wherein the group had discussed issues with Van Pool transportation.

Amy LeBlanc provided information on the Grit Chair Lending Program with the North County Land Trust. In addition, she provided information on Tool Kits by The Arc of Massachusetts that are available at the Recreation Department.

Bill reported attending the Green Acres update meeting by Fitchburg Housing Authority.

Amy offered to send the Fitchburg Disability Commission meeting agendas to the Clerk's office each month going forward.

3. Open forum: The Disability Commission agreed to make the July meeting a Special Meeting to discuss Van Pool and invite local school representatives, parents, and local legislators.
4. Accessible Art Project and Sensory-Friendly Movie: Carolyn reported she is working on a program through the state that on accommodation access. She will update the Commission more as she works her way through the program.

The Disability Commission's sensory-friendly movie was held on May 20, 2023 at Cinema World. Fifty-three guests attended, as well as Doris, Bill, and Carolyn. Carolyn reported that they learned a lot from this first movie event and look forward to sponsoring another. She said she learned that AMC movie theaters offer two sensory-friendly showings per month.

5. Fairmont Street Apartments: Amy and Bill reported that they attended a ribbon-cutting at the Fairmont Street apartments. NewVue staff welcome the Commission members to tour the project if interested.
6. Day Street Renovations: Bill met with the Fitchburg Housing Authority Executive Director and a tenant after Amy received a call from the tenant with concerns about the recent ADA renovations at the Durkin Building on Day Street. Bill confirmed the design plans were approved by the state and met ADA requirements and that the apartment appeared to have been built to plan.
7. Canton Street Renovations: Amy reported receiving a letter from a resident on Canton Street stating the road was in poor condition. This is a city-maintained street so the Commission agreed the matter should be directed to the street division.
8. New Brochures: A new supply of Disability Commission brochures were available and several commission members took some to distribute throughout the community.
9. Old Business:
 - a. Business Cards - Amy confirmed the business cards were ordered. Tiffany made a motion for the Commission to spend up to \$50.00 on labels and envelopes. Marshal seconded the motion and the item passed all-in-favor.

The Commission voted to spend up to \$600.00 to host another sensory-friendly movie prior to the end of 2023. This passed all-in-favor.
 - b. Thirty-year anniversary: The Commission voted to use the balance of any remaining funds from the current fiscal year toward the 30-Anniversary celebration. This passed all-in-favor.
 - c. Crosswalk at Old Deerfield Rd – No work has been done yet and no sign alerting to the possibility of a blind pedestrian has been posted.
10. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.