

**CITY OF NORWALK
ADA TRANSITION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 29, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Carol Frank, Chair; Jonathan Brown, Daisy Franklin, Katie Banzhaf, Beatrix Winter

STAFF: Adam Bovilsky, Fair Rent/Human Rights Director; Jerry Frank, Intern; Darlene Young, Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Member Frank Called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016

The following changes were noted:

Page 1, under **STAFF:** Please change "Fair Rent/Human Services Director;" to "Human Relations and Fair Rent Director"

Page 2, paragraph 2, last line, please change "said that it was just passing along information." to " said that she was just passing along information".

**** MS. WINTER MOVED THE FEBRUARY 18, 2016 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2016 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (FRANK, FRANKLIN, BANZHAF AND WINTER) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BROWN).**

UPDATES

Assistant Listening Devices – Ms. Young said the project has made its way through the vetting process and the bid will go to Land Use and then to full Council for approval. Sound Associates has been awarded the final contract. Mr. Brown asked how many rooms were involved. Mr. Bovilsky said that the work would be in Community Room, Concert Hall, A300, BOE, Room 213 and some of the meeting rooms at the Senior Center. Mr. Brown asked about the Police and Fire Departments. Ms. Young explained that there was a press room at the Police Department, along with the Community Room and the third floor meeting. She listed the Fire Department rooms that would also have hearing assisted capability.

Mr. Brown said that he had sent out an email about having some kind of kiosk that would help the various staff assist the public with using these devices. He said that the weak link at the moment was having the security guards being trained. He said that IT needs to be involved in the process. Mr. Bovilsky said that once the systems are installed, the staff will have a clearer idea of how much training is needed. Mr. Brown said that he thought the training would cost about \$15,000.

Norwalk Public Schools ADA Project - Ms. Young said that she had updated the Committee about the Norwalk Public Schools ADA Project status. She explained that the School District was undergoing major restructuring. After a meeting with Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hodell from the BOE, it became clear that the best place to start would be the high schools. At BMHS, there is a hazard for those with impaired sight where the stairways come down. The BOE will be installing a cane detectable railing around these areas.

Mr. Bovilsky said that a major study was done in 2013 to assess the school buildings. After the conversation with Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Hodell, it was decided to hold off on the ADA changes because major renovations are planned for many of the school buildings. When the renovations are done on the school buildings, they will need to be ADA compliant. Discussion followed.

At Norwalk High, there will need to be renovations done to the wood ramp to the swimming pool. Mr. Frank said that it is checked every year, sanded down, but is very old. Those are the two high school projects that will be done.

Mr. Bovilsky said that the schools will be the future site of many of the projects. Mr. Brown asked about the for the handicapped accessibility to the pool. Mr. Bovilsky said that this would be a major undertaking and gave the details.

Close captioning. - There is \$10,000 allocated in the budget for this. Mr. Bovilsky said that the videos of the Common Council meetings need to be captioned. The BET only allocated \$10,000 for this project, so it will only be done in English at this time. Ms. Winter asked about the cost of having the captioning translating. Discussion followed.

Main Library Unisex Bathroom Renovation - Ms. Young said that the library wants to have one of the lower floor staff bathrooms renovated into an unisex ADA bathroom. The toilet is 1/4 inch too high for compliance. To lower this would require tearing out the tiles and lowering the pipes. Mr. Bovilsky asked whether the Committee wanted to spend between \$8,000 and \$10,000 to change this to make it ADA compliant. It was the consensus of the Committee to let the plumbing remain as it is.

Senior Center Bathroom Renovation - Ms. Winter said that there was a CDBG grant of \$45,000 for the project and the City has committed \$36,000 to the project. The City had asked that \$12,000 allocated to the conversion of the janitors closet to a unisex bathroom

be shifted to this project. Mr. Bovilsky explained that Mr. Lo had suggested that rather than making one unisex bathroom, they should renovate the bathrooms. Ms. Winter said that CDBG requires complicated paperwork. This will be a prolonged project. Ms. Winter said that there was asbestos in the area, which will have to be abated. Discussion about the details followed.

REQUESTED PROJECT

South Norwalk Library Branch Automatic Door Openers

Ms. Young said that there is a monthly meeting at the building and the doors are very heavy. She said that she and Mr. Frank had assessed the situation. Mr. Bovilsky said that the doors were tested for ADA compliance and they were not in compliance. There are no automatic door openers on the bathroom doors, either. Doing the main doors would cost about \$3,000 to \$5,000.

**** MS. BANZHAF MOVED TO APPROVE INSTALLING AUTOMATIC DOORS FOR THE SOUTH NORWALK BRANCH LIBRARY.**

**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF ADA STAFF PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR.

Ms. Young reviewed the details of the Compliance and Transition Plan. Mr. Bovilsky said that the Yankee Doodle garage hand rail will be done by the Parking Authority. Jefferson and Ponus Schools are scheduled for major renovations. When the renovations are done, the buildings will include the ADA compliance projects.

The discussion moved to the lack of an accessible route between City Hall and Health Departments.

Mr. Bovilsky said that the Committee needed to reduce the project costs by \$16,000. A discussion followed about reducing the Uncontrolled/Fluctuating Projects cost estimate budget line.

**** MS. BANZHAF MOVED TO REDUCE THE UNCONTROLLED/FLUCTUATING PROJECT COST ESTIMATES LINE ITEM BY \$16,000.**

**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND TIMES

Mr. Bovilsky said that the Department was finishing up the Capital Budget for October. The recommendation will be mailed out to the Committee members to consider in time for the fall meeting, which is will be September 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Banzhaf displayed the new emblem for the disabled that the Governor would be signing into law later in the day. This new law will require that as signs are replaced, the replacement signs display the new emblem.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BROWN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services