CITY OF NORWALK
ADA TRANSITION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Carol Frank, Chair; Mary Geake, Jonathan Brown, Daisy Franklin; Beatrix Winter (12:39 p.m.)

STAFF: Adam Bovilsky, Fair Rent/Human Relations Director; Darlene Young, Program Coordinator

OTHERS: None

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Frank called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

October 18, 2016

**** MS. GEAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 18, 2016 MINUTES.**
**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 18, 2016 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UPDATES:

Assisted Listening Devices

Ms. Young showed the Commissioners the new listening racks. She listed the various rooms that now had listening racks including the Concert Hall, the Community Room, the Council Chambers, and Rooms 231, and 101. Mr. Bovilsky indicated where the microphones were in the ceiling of Room 231. He said that if someone wishes to use the headsets, the security guards will have them. For the Council Chambers, the head sets are in the booth. Mr. Bovilsky said that the Chambers were adjusted to provide better audio for the general public.

Mr. Brown said that many of the smart devices now have remote microphones that could be placed near a speaker and routed to the smart device. He added that part of the issue was also the degree of hearing loss that people have.

Ms. Franklin said that she was pleased that they were moving forward.

Mr. Brown said that this would be an excellent topic for an article in The Hour. Mr. Bovilsky said that they would be sending out a release. He added that Sound Associates would also be letting their media contacts know. Ms. Franklin suggested that perhaps it could be broadcasted over Channel 79, also.

B. Senior Center Bathroom Renovation

Ms. Young said that the project renovating the bathrooms has moved forward.

Ms. Frank left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Ms. Young said that there had been an issue with the original lowest bidder and a decision was made to go out for another bid. The contractors has been selected and work has commenced.

Ms. Frank rejoined the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Ms. Frank said that there was a slight delay in starting the work because the Fire Department has to check something out before the renovation started.

C. ADA Etiquette Training

Ms. Young distributed copies of the Etiquette Training policy for the staff. She said that it just provides general guidelines to the staff know how to handle various situation.

Ms. Frank noted that there was still no hook on the disabled stall door on the second floor ladies bathroom. Ms. Young made a note of this.

Mr. Brown suggested that the brochure be made available to the public. Mr. Bovilsky said that the brochure for the staff. It is focused on how to identify issues. It was suggested that this brochure also be given to the schools and the Senior Center. Mr. Bovilsky reminded everyone that the City does not have any input with the schools or the Senior Center.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

Approve ADA Staff Project Recommendation for 27/20118 Fiscal Year Capital Budget.

Ms. Winter joined the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Ms. Young explained that they had an approved budget of $250,000 and that the current project budget was $272,300. The 2017-2018 project has to be reduced by $22,300. Discussion followed about which projects should have funding cuts.

Ms. Frank asked about the cane detectable warning device in the stairwell. Ms. Young said that it was already underway, so the budget could be reduced by $1,500. It was also decided to postpone the audible signals in the City Hall elevator for a year.

The discussion moved to the various locations of the curb cuts and the details involved with making those types of cuts.

**** MS. WINTER MOVED TO CHANGE THE ADA COMPLIANCE AND TRANSITION PLAN 2017-18 PROJECTS AS DISCUSSED.**
**** MS. GEAKE SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve budget increase for Norwalk Public Schools ADA projects.

Ms. Young distributed copies of photographs of the ramps at NHS. She said that there was an issue with the outside wooden ramps deteriorated. It will be replaced with a concrete ramp. The original estimate of $30,000 was incorrect and the new bids are now in the $60,000 range.

Ms. Frank asked where the funding would come from. Mr. Bovilsky reviewed the financial details with the Committee members.

Mr. Brown asked why the ramp was being made of concrete. Mr. Bovilsky said that when they had gone out to bid on this, the architect had specified that it should be either wood or concrete. Discussion followed about the details. The contractor is ready to start the project. Both Mr. Brown and Ms. Frank expressed concerns about the fact that it was concrete with a metal railing. Discussion followed.

Ms. Frank pointed out that the Committee could vote on the item now or wait for a future meeting.

Mr. Bovilsky suggested the Committee consider a vote directing the ADA and Human Relations staff to have a discussion with Mr. Lo, Mr. Sgobbo, Mr. Hodel and Ms. Gill as to whether an alternate material for the ramp would be cheaper and as effective. If the recommendations are to against the use of an alternative, then the project will go forward as proposed.

Ms. Frank said that she would like to have an alternative material for the proposed metal railings because in the cold they can easily become slippery or a bare hand could adhere to them. Mr. Brown said that it would be important for the contractor to become familiar with the ADA compliance requirements. Ms. Young reminded everyone that the project had already been approved by the Common Council. If there are changes, the item would have to be brought back before the Council.

**** MR. BROWN MOVED TO DIRECT THE ADA AND HUMAN RELATIONS STAFF TO HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH MR. LO, MR. SGOBBO, MR. HODEL AND MS. GILL AS TO WHETHER AN ALTERNATE MATERIAL FOR THE RAMP AND THE RAILINGS WOULD BE CHEAPER AND AS EFFECTIVE. IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TO AGAINST THE USE OF AN ALTERNATIVE, THEN THE PROJECT WILL GO FORWARD AS PROPOSED**.

**** MS. FRANKLIN SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (FRANK, GEAKE, BROWN AND WINTER) AND ONE OPPOSED (FRANKLIN)**.

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Times

Mr. Bovilsky pointed out that the next meeting would depend on the outcome on the ramp decision.

Mr. Brown asked about the coordinating a possible press release. Mr. Bovilsky said that he would speak to the Mayor's Office about this.

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D

Ms. Winter said that the bathroom restoration project was slated to start on May 22nd. The contractor needs a permit from the Fire Marshal. It now slated to start the day following Memorial Day.

Upcoming Meeting Dates Cont'd

Mr. Bovilsky said that suggested that the next regular meeting be scheduled in October. It was agreed to have it on October 18th at noon.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. FRANKLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. WINTER SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services