Mayor’s Committee on Accessibility
2/21/18 Meeting Minutes

Present: Nate Besio, Dave Clark, Gabe Brunelle, Emma Allen, Darlene Bayko, Martha Keenan, Ron Redmond. Guests: Mayor Miro Weinberger, Katie Vane (Mayor’s staff).

I. COME TO ORDER

II. AGENDA


IV. PUBLIC FORUM – no one present for public forum

V. REVIEW OF MISSION, GOALS, ACTIVITIES by Nate Besio and group discussion with Mayor Weinberger. Focus by committee is on the Downtown District (Waterfront to South Winooski and Pearl to Main Streets). Questions posed by the committee: how can the committee best support the Mayor’s office and the City? How can we use metrics to measure outcomes and effectiveness? The Mayor and Committee brainstormed/discussed importance of defining the problem first, implementing strategies and measuring outcomes. Areas of focus for the next year:

- Evaluate condition of all Accessible Parking Spaces in the downtown district and where improvements are needed. Recommendations go to Department of Public Works for correction action.
- Engage Planning & Zoning Director, David White, about possibility of participating in Sketch Review Process.
- Define and inventory areas of the downtown with the highest accessibility needs.
  - Public right of way (streets and sidewalks). Committee has already begun an analysis of sidewalks in the downtown district. Recommendations will be categorized and shared with DPW.
  - Building entrances. Committee will inventory accessibility of all building entrances in the downtown to create a baseline. Will be important to see % that are/are not accessible.
  - Group discussed presenting an annual award to an organization or business advancing accessibility. One possible approach is perform an annual inventory re: the accessibility of businesses in the downtown district (access to bathrooms, tables, counters, for example) and measure changes over time — and use it as a tool to acknowledge those businesses that have made efforts to improve/increase accessibility.
  - Town Forum. Group discussed first a town forum on accessibility, versus conducting an electronic survey. Purpose: to seek community’s input on accessibility issues in the downtown (and also have experts on hand from SSTA, GMT, etc. to answer questions). From the forum, key questions will surface for a future electronic survey.

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 pm