

Burlington Committee on Accessibility

November 17, 2015

City Hall, Room 12

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Michael Watson, Elaine Zimmerman, Ralph Montefusco, Emma Allen, Shelly Waterman, Cleary Buckley, Tom Charbonneau, Ned Holt

Committee Members Absent: Ron Redmond, Sam Handy

Others Present: Kesha Ram (committee staff), Ed Paquin (Disability Rights Vermont), Mark Montalban, Nate Besio, Maddy Hansen, Maggie Mae Whittemore

Meeting commenced at 4:03 pm.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Nate announced the VCIL Holiday Open House in Burlington on December 8 from 1-3 pm. Elaine updated the group on her effort to bring Jon Killacky to the January meeting. Maddy and Maggie Mae are students observing from St. Michael's College.

Waterfront Accessibility Discussion, Emma Allen

As the Parks Department begins a new round of review of waterfront events, they are seeking input. Kesha will send the accessible meeting/event checklist the Committee created. There will be 70 new parking spaces near the skate park, which is scheduled to open November 23. To meet minimum ADA standards,

there will be three accessible parking spots. There was concern that would not be enough for events or large group activities.

Accessible Private Parking Discussion, Ed Paquin & Mark Montalban

Mark Montalban relayed his story verbally, which is represented in a letter in the supporting documents. Ed Paquin identified himself as an advocate, but emphasized that he is not an attorney and cannot give legal advice. He shared that police have the authority to enforce accessible parking violations on private property. They have discretion in the matter. A dispute with a private citizen who complains about a lack of enforcement to a business owner would need to go through the Human Rights Commission or Department of Justice for private parking. The Committee would like to hear from BPD Parking Enforcement in the near term to get updated statistics and understand the situation better.

Wayfinding Sign Placement, Elaine Zimmerman

There is a wayfinding sign being placed in front of Sotto Enoteca and What Ales You? on the corner of St. Paul and Main Streets that is concerning because of heavy pedestrian traffic and lines, along with bike racks and a grate, on that corner. Ned will look into it with Laura Wheelock from DPW.

Next Steps

The Committee will decide in early December if members want to hold a December meeting or wait until January.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.