

Burlington Committee on Accessibility

June 17, 2014

City Hall

## **Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Ralph Montefusco, Bradley Stephenson, Elaine Zimmerman, Ned Holt, Michael Watson

Others Present: Kesha Ram (CEDO), Sam Ghazey (CEDO), Brian Lee (UVM Engineering), Nate Besio (VCIL), Marcy Ryan, Cleary Buckley, Nicole Losch (DPW)

### Public Forum

Brian Lee: Brian was referred to the committee by Peter Kriff. He is currently doing research with the VT Agency of Transportation on the creation of a tool for individuals to create personal transportation plans. The focus would be to have a tool for disabled individuals to be able to plan out their long term transportation needs. They would like to have online and offline service options that take advantage of private and public services located in Chittenden County. They are currently looking at what desires are being met and what is still needed to be met. They are doing this through reaching out to various stakeholders by doing interviews, holding focus groups and then will complement with supply side inference.

### Announcements

Marcy: Concerned about access ramp for North Beach. Electric wheel chairs will not properly function on it. Kesha will follow up with Parks & Rec.

Ralph: They are putting in an electric car charging station in the mall parking lot and in return are taking away an accessible parking spot. Details are not clear but these kinds of decisions should have proper oversight.

Cleary: Edmunds Elementary School is only wheelchair accessible on the ground floor. There lacks any infrastructure to support disabled individuals. His son is currently attending and will continue to because having influence from within will expedite the process of installing an elevator. Kesha will work on scheduling District representative for the July meeting.

### Presentation: Sidewalk Strategic Plan

Nicole Losch from DPW began by outlining the goals and key pieces of information from the Sidewalk Strategic Plan Upgrades and 2014 Infrastructure Inventory. More information is available on the DPW website.

Marcy raised Colchester Ave sidewalks as an area of concern. The street is very steep and rock runoff from driveways makes the road very difficult to navigate and transport on. Nicole replied that the department did not look at gravel as a factor, but gravel is already not prohibited on sidewalk spaces.

Nate would like someone with disability issue to be present during inventory process to bring the perspective.

Michael stated that North Ave is also a place of concern but a very good model of what works well is Pine Street.

Ned encouraged committee members to be vocal about issues they observe along with reporting illegal activity that affects disabled individuals to BPD.

#### Annual Report Update

Kesha provided an updated draft of the annual report and indicated she will speak with the Mayor about a potential business member and ADA designee for the committee. She also announced that the City budget includes funding for an HR training position that will include accessibility and sensitivity for working with and serving people with disabilities.

Ralph reiterated the committee concern that an ADA contact is required by law and should be published. The issue of a smoking radius around City Hall was raised, and a discussion ensued of obstructions on Church Street for people with mobility issues.

Generally, the committee supported the direction of the annual report and will see a more finalized version in July.

#### Next Steps

Kesha will revise draft and get a copy to the Mayor. She is also working on a new draft of the event checklist.

Michael complimented the committee email discussion of a new access symbol that is more active.

#### Adjourn