

**Salem Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes**  
November 15, 2022; Meeting held via zoom platform.

**Commissioners present (noted by last name in minutes):**

Darren Black  
Rebecca Christie  
Debra Lobsitz, Chair  
David Moisan  
Kerry Neenan  
Mandee Spittle  
Kate Zuraw

**Also present (noted by last name in minutes):**

Lisa Cammarata, ADA Coordinator  
Alan Hanscom, SATv  
Megan Riccardi, City Council Liaison

**Commissioners absent:**

Zeke Holt  
Maureen McKinnon

**1) Introductions/welcome/guests**

Lobsitz called the meeting to order at 4:38PM, and she extended a welcome to everyone. Each commissioner and invited guest introduced themselves, and Cammarata identified participants in the meeting.

**2)** Cammarata noted that City Clerk Ilene Simons (Simons) and Assistant City Clerk Elections Rochelle Sport (Sport) were present, given the New Business #c. Moisan made a motion to move New Business #c to the first item on the agenda. Zuraw seconded the motion and it carried.

**3) New Business, c: (moved):**

Moisan said he usually votes at the Community Life Center, and on November 1, he participated in Early Voting, and he wanted to bring up the topic of accessibility at the polling locations because there are special elections coming up as well and 2024 is not that far away. He wants anyone to be able to use the accessible voting machines, and not be denied that option. He said Simons and her staff are doing a great job.

Black said he voted at the Bentley School this year on election day, and he used the Auto Mark System machine to vote. He said he was pleased to use it as it is empowering. Black said his ballot jammed, and the poll worker called customer service for the machine. Due to the jamming, he asked for a paper ballot and to have the jammed ballot spoiled and destroyed. He asked Simons if the machines are tested.

Simons said she provides training for the election workers, and she tells them anyone can use the Auto Mark System. She said she tells the workers to assist voters who may have difficulties, and she said she would look into that incident, as she has technicians she can contact when something happens.

Simons said all of the Auto Mark Systems are tested before they leave the building and are sent to the locations. She said when there are problems in the field, she is the one to be notified.

She said she has been in contact with the State to see about better equipment; she was told maybe in 2023.

Simons and Sport thanked Moisan and Black for speaking, and they suggested that if anyone had any issues in the future to contact Simons and then Sport. Simons said people can email [elections@salem.com](mailto:elections@salem.com) with any questions.

Moisan, Black, and the rest of the Commission thanked her and Sport for attending the meeting.

Christie asked about working at the polls, and Cammarata suggested that people contact Simons and Sport if they are interested, and also to check out the City website for information.

**a. Construction update; Engineering Department**

Cammarata reported City Engineer provided her with an update on the paving in the City:

- There is a contractor replacing sidewalks, ramps, etc. on English, Allen and Cousins Streets.
- Another contractor is working on Station Road.
- Another contractor is working on accessible sidewalks, crosswalks and walking paths in Mack Park, near the food farm off Grove Street.

Cammarata suggested the SCOD invite the City Engineer to a future meeting.

**b. Update on funding in handicap violations account; Lisa Cammarata**

Cammarata reported the fund's balance as of that date was a little over \$110,00.00. She said she had received an invoice from Angie Giancola (Giancola) for the Unified Sports Program, and she would have a balance figure next meeting.

**4) Old Business:**

**a. ADA Transition Plan; Meghan Riccardi/Lisa Cammarata/Deb Lobsitz**

Cammarata said this item is on the agenda every month for discussion, to call attention to the work in process and already done. Lobsitz said it's helpful for our audience to know the ADA Transition Plan is on our website and available for all to read and review. The link to the Plan is here:

<https://www.salemma.gov/adaplan>.

**b. Sub-Committee reports and assignments:**

**ADA Updates and Transition Plan:**

See above, this subject was covered already.

**Project Funding**

Cammarata said the subcommittee was going to meet, and she would send out email to set it up.

She reported she spoke to Giancola about the T-shirts, and the purchase of them. Cammarata was satisfied on the purchase manner and that they had been diligent in ensuring correct sizes were going to be ordered via homeroom surveys, etc. Giancola told her they would be purchasing extras, too, to make sure everyone got one.

**Social Media**

Moisan had no formal report, and Cammarata reported Spittle is interested in working on our Social Media presence, and she will contact her to discuss the Facebook Page. Spittle said she is still interested in doing short bios and pictures of the SCOD Commissioners and will follow up at the next meeting.

**Pedestrian Safety**

It was brought to the SCOD attention the audible signal at Hawthorne Boulevard and Derby Street is not working properly, and SeeClickFix was aware. Cammarata suggested Black reach out to City Electrician John Giardi (Giardi), as he had been instrumental in other areas relative to crossing signals. Black said he was aware of the matter, and he would be happy to reach out to Giardi.

**Salem Human Rights Coalition (SHRC); Commissioner Kerry Neenan (Neenan) with alternates Becky Christie (Christie) and Maureen McKinnon (McKinnon) serves as Commission representative to this board.**

Neenan reported she had no update, yet the SHRC was in process of updating its postcard-like notification for new residents.

**c. Wheelchair Rental Program; SCOD role; update/follow-up, if available**

Neenan offered to contact Destination Salem, as they are in their new location, to discuss the possibility of this program. Zuraw wants to be involved in the sub-committee for this project, as does Lobsitz. McKinnon had offered to do some research too. Neenan will send out an email to get the sub-committee to together.

**d. Planning Department collaboration with SCOD update; Daniel LaRoe**

No update; Cammarata said she would contact LaRoe to get the project status.

**e. Canal St. pathway: a request of using funds to add entrance/exit indicators for the visually impaired; Meg Riccardi.**

Riccardi said this matter is still in process, and she is aware that the Planning Department is looking at contractors and getting quotes. She will continue to report as she gets more information.

**f. Advisory Group Open Space and Recreation Plan; Tom Devine; Senior Planner; Lobsitz**

Lobsitz was out of town and unable to attend the recent meeting; she will update after the next meeting.

**g. Support (letter) for affordable accessible housing in Salem; Maureen McKinnon; update**

McKinnon was not present for the meeting. SCOD has not received a draft of her letter discussed last month. Cammarata asked Riccardi about the process for a resolution from the City Council, as that was mentioned last month as the reason for the letter. Riccardi indicated the City Council can take a stance on matters. SCOD will wait till next meeting to discuss further.

**h. Unified Sports Program SHS; Kerry Neenan/group**

Neenan reported the Fun in the Stands program was a practice and a scrimmage, and the SCOD was invited to the Pep Rally before the Thanksgiving Day football game. Neenan said she would share the info with the SCOD as soon as she got it.

**5) Announcements/Questions/General discussion/Ideas for future meetings**

**a. Haunted Happenings commentary/advisory**

Cammarata admitted this was an error on the agenda, yet Neenan reminded everyone to complete the survey and provide feedback regarding accessibility etc.

Lobsitz reported the National Park Service ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)) offers free lifetime access to the National Parks to persons with a permanent disability. All of the information to the program can be found on this link: [Access Pass - Accessibility \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#).

The City has hired a Signature Parks Project Manager; Cammarata suggested the new employee, Michael Crouse be invited to a future meeting.

After discussion regarding the holiday season and the next meeting's scheduled date falling during Hanukkah, motion was made by Moisan and seconded by Christie to not meet in December, and have the next meeting on January 17, 2023.

The group discussed having hybrid meetings; Hanscom offered to test the room at 98 Washington Street before a hybrid meeting was held.

At 5:38 Moisan made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Zuraw. All in favor.