



Meeting Date: 6/13/2019 12:30 pm
Location: 10th Floor Conference Room, Stamford Govt Center

In Attendance: FJ Mercede, D. DiBlasio, P. Magalnick, M. Levine, M. Brown, E. Bromley, Bob Lion, F. Lane, H. Kazmierczak, Michael Moore(dsse), Eric Morson by phone

MINUTES

Meeting started at 12:35 and FJ Mercede welcomed the group
Phil motioned to accept minutes from April meeting, Ellen 2nd, accepted.

1. OUTDOOR DINING (E Bromley)

- Chez Vous issued citation from Frank Fedele, their lawyer, Jim Rubino, made threats so currently it isn't being enforced, Ellen to follow-up, confused.
- Bob and Eric had Lorca move planters that impeded the sidewalk traffic and they did move them, about a month ago. Also told Fiesta about 3 weeks ago. Tigin's barricades moved too.
- Phil disappointed that Frank Fidele says he has no car to enforce outside of walking of Gov't Ctr. Ellen said not true, there's a pool of vehicles. Mike McGrath is trying to straighten things out. Also Hope St is a problem - Amore, Sunny&Frankies, new ice cream shop a problem - haven't bought a ramp yet. Springdale business don't know the outdoor dining ordinance is city-wide.
- FJ - Sandy and the Mayor thought the outdoor dining ordinances is only for downtown. That was years ago. If not being enforced, no one knows.

- Phil – one barrier downtown is prickly bushes growing over the barriers. Thinks it's Tomatillo. Not safe.
- Honorata – Dunkin on Hope St has 6 tables and chairs jammed in, not accessible. If inside and outside issues not enforced, we are in trouble.
- Ellen – Mark McGrath is very good supervisor and new bldg. dept head, Bharat Gami, knows ADA well. Both very responsive. Ellen will set an internal meeting an FJ can come, has a simple agenda. Can we amend ordinance to be specific re barriers? Do it on a timely basis. Ellen will look thru notes from Laura, the "acting McGrath" to see what she suggested.
- Bob – "inspect what you expect" is a business mantra. Thinks that will work now if we have a plan, enforcement and oversight.
- Phil – kitchen size dictates number of people served, bathrooms, and accessible bathrooms. Outdoor dining threatens this model. His nuclear option is to go to Dept of Justice and shut everything down if things don't start changing.
- Ellen – We are past this with new building guy. He should straighten this out.
- Honorata – potential safety and fire issues with some exits/entrances blocked w/tables and chairs.
- Ellen – Permits may have been rubberstamped in the past but the permit process is changing and we cannot grandfather them. We need to reassess. Ellen will suggest this.
- FJ – List from Tim – a number of restaurants didn't renew this year. Capriccio didn't get a 2019 permit, many haven't.
- Ellen – let's give this to McGrath. It's his bailiwick. Institutionalize this in normal course of business. She is optimistic that he and Bharat will get it fixed.
- FJ to M.Moore – is health dept looking at street permits as part of spot inspections. NO – they are not looking for permits for outdoor dining.

2. BEACH STICKER ISSUES

- The policy has not been made public. Fees not straightened out, how do you know what you are entitled to. Per Ellen the will be changed next year as the website is updated and automated.
- Honorata – We need signage and should post policy on local social media group

- Ellen – Training issue, discount based on disability income.
- Phil – The city should train employees on new standards.
- Ellen said we already do that. The workers just don't understand it.

3. STATUS OF CITY ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES (D. DiBlasio for K. Murray)

- Dan - Govt Ctr lobby bathrooms, 2nd set of drawings approved. Will send hard date for construction when has. Then gets bids, etc. Everything is rolling.
- FJ – we have been talking about this for...ever. Are we talking about fall? We have public meetings in this bldg., the Cloonan budget meeting was a problem w/accessible bathrooms.
- Phil – not one public meeting can take place in a building w/no accessible bathrooms
- Marty – Mayor approved bid waiver a long time ago
- Bob – we need to commit to a date of completion
- Honorata – Last fall minutes said this project would be complete April 1. A lot of inconsistencies. It is not fair or legal for people to dehydrate to spend time at the govt ctr. Also someone in a wheelchair couldn't take her food from the counter in the cafeteria. None are accessible.
- Dan – 40% of the Govt Ctr is compliant, but can't promise
- FJ – Now that we are getting educated, we should finish the gov't ctr.
- Dan – West beach bathrooms – 6/12 plumbing done, 6/13 paint, 6/17 stall partitions installation. 4 ADA tables being distributed 6/14 at Cummings Point, Cove Bch and Scalzi Park, West Bch. The 4 larger ones are held up, awaiting parts from vendor. Cove Island - target for proposal end july-aug, red brick building to be a bathroom. Terry Connors inside and outside ramps are done, outside and inside water fountains done, dressing rooms done, all done per list.
- Bob – who certifies that updates are fully compliant. Dan – going by list, but zoning dept should give a C.O.

4. SELF ASSESSMENT

- Marty talking with Valerie Fletcher re streets and sidewalks. Need to focus on specific areas, to cost it out. We need to prioritize. Very complicated. We need to decide what areas to focus on. And not clear what standards apply – original ADA standards or the proposed unapproved guidelines, higher standards.
- Honorata – focus on safety issues :prioritize by 1. Areas with high injuries, 2. High senior/disables density. We should go to the DOT website and use what they've adapted.
- Marty – set intro meeting w/new school superintendent, BOE absorbed in mold issue but needs her to be aware to budget to approach issues
- Phil – Who is assigned to deal with Belltown Fire Dept? Funded from city but privately owned.
- Ellen & Marty – They don't have report, probably not. Turn of River someone complained about not being accessible, so must deal with it. If no one complains, then OK to use as a meeting place. Long Ridge and Turn of River are in same boat as Belltown.

5. MISC

- Ellen will set meeting with Bharat and McGrath to start talking about process and enforcement for ADA compliance. FJ and Phil would like to participate. Will figure out who will send a letter to the Springdale restaurants, will get bch sticker policy to Honorata. Cafeteria not her problem.
- Phil – Ch78, BOE tv station not accessible – Bob will fill it. Nextdoor.com isn't accessible. Bob – the city doesn't recommend it. It's a private site to disseminate info.
- Honorata – Govt Ctr lobby velvet rope barriers too high for blind cane, needs fixing. Suggested a second row of them. Tax office is the worst.
- Frances – Sidewalk problems in front of Gov't Ctr on Tresser Blvd betw the parking garage entrance and Washington. Cracked slate tiles and bumps, up and down, and planters obstruct. She is having problems walking. Dan noted.
- Phil – Harbor Point Trolley stops still not changed/fixed.
- FJ asked MMoore what the process, his involvement, for downtown dining permits. A4A did a walk-around to point out problems, most solved, but when a new one opens, the

problems starts again. Mike Moore said they did an inventory this year. Their job is to report violations. But the ambassadors aren't helpful. Report to Frank Fedele for enforcement. FJ – 12/15 amendment to ordinance, but there's not clarity. Barrier requirements need to be more specific. That would help the blind. Mike suggested a walk, FJ said he's done it 8-10 times w/no changes/improvements. Needs to be done early enough in a year –Aug/Sept so it is an approved amendment for following year. Suggested a meeting w/restaurant owners/managers. Per Honorata – safety should be a priority be it inside or outside. Tables, chairs, etc don't comply. Phil – Zaza has a bathroom that a wheelchair can't get thru the door. The city is ignoring. Implored Mike for help. Many indoor violations as well as outdoor. Bob thinks that short of reallocating resources, there is a priority list. There's an effort to move things fwd, and we need to focus on top priorities that will have the most impact. Honorata said safety violations are her focus. FJ felt the need for an A4A committee had to do with obstacles that people in wheelchairs faced in Stamford – sidewalks off Hope St, Pepperidge. Being able to navigate. Honorata – we should be an advisory committee and should bring attention on how to improve access and safety and the city gov't avoids us. FJ – we are carefully working up an agenda for McGrath and hoping he will help and execute. Running out of steam. FJ and the bathroom dates is crazy. Marty spoke up to get one done! And it still isn't. Ridiculous. Eric – most is safety so public safety should be first to look at this. Bob said we need to go before the public safety committee of board of reps. Phil – the 5k last weekend, got a complaint due to blind people in a zig zag crosswalk, no one will touch since the state installed. We had a problem with a fire in Frances's building. Still no plan that anyone knows of to help the disabled. Mike – been focusing on the access on the 4' access in the café. Will commit to getting done by the 21st, will do an inventory of where that stands, consistent infringement, will turn over inventory of posts improperly placed. Do we have 4' between grates. FJ – asked Mike if he knew tree grates were going to be replaced because not cane-friendly. Tripping hazard on Bedford and they're looking at environmentally sustainable material and he is recommending replacing them. Phil offered thanks and will take a walk w/Mike. Mike said he needs to go over the Capriccio issue w/no permit.

No August Meeting, next will be Sept. 12th at 12:30pm
Meeting adjourned 2:30