

DRAFT

Stamford Access 4 All, Mayor's Committee
Meeting Date: 4/13/17, 12:30pm
Location: Mayor's Conference Room, 10th Floor

In Attendance: F. Mercedé, K. Burbank, E. Bromley, P. Zeiss, E. Orgera, M. Levine, C. Lindquist, P. Magalnick

Special Guests: B. Mulderig, E. Mendoza, H. Szymczyk, D. Diblasio, A. Gunzburg, A. Burbank

M I N U T E S

FJ welcomed everyone, and people introduced themselves and their reason for attending the meeting.

March meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

Britta Mulderig from Uber talked about how Uber's work serving people with disabilities, including its recently updated service animal policy. Her team is 100% committed to helping "build community" in the areas in which they operate. Uber offers a great option for people with disabilities, except for those requiring accessible vehicles (not available in CT currently). Britta said the company is testing accessible vehicles in New York; however, she doesn't think these will be broadly available (in CT) for at least a couple of years. Subsidized/ride share programs are available (MA is an example), and Britta is happy to develop something with Stamford for appropriate clients (e.g., Senior Center). Uber Assist is a training program offered to drivers that provides additional training for how to help people into a car, how to fold a wheelchair, etc. If Britta can get a few senior centers in FC to hold one, she will gladly do this.

Ellen sent a letter to all downtown establishments in late March outlining requirements of the sidewalk café ordinance. It included photos of acceptable barriers, along with a copy of the ordinance. Ellen hopes this will encourage compliance; however, confusion still exists about how the ordinance will be enforced. Paul Z. will visit Table 104 to explore problems and solutions with that particular establishment. Craig suggested we create or locate a simple flowchart of rights and regulations for sharing on the A4A website. We need an A4A Committee member to volunteer to do this.

Marty confirmed that the 5' wide "MobiMat" wheelchair beach mat has been ordered for use at Cummings Beach and should be installed before summer. It will serve as a test and can be adjusted for use at other beaches, depending upon how successfully it is used.

Marty also reported that an RFP has been issued to improve access from the garage into the Government Center and also into the Senior Center. He said custodians and security staff will also receive sensitivity training to help keep hallways clear of boxes, and that several counters will be lowered this summer to provide better access to residents with mobility issues.

Enaida Mendoza shared a brief description of services provided by Bureau of Education & Services for the Blind (BESB) and said their main focus is helping people with visual impairments gain access to employment. They are always looking for employers to partner with, including possibly the City of Stamford.

FJ announced that Kris has resigned from the Committee. This is her last official meeting. He thanked Kris for her efforts, and Kris thanked everyone in attendance for all their hard work to help improve access for all throughout the City of Stamford. It has been an honor to work with you all.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.