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## BELMONT DISABILITY ACCESS COMMISSION

Minutes, Meeting of November 28, 2017

Disability Access Commission Members in Attendance: Janet H. Macdonald, Mark Clark, Nan Donald, Emily Walsh, Erica Zidel

Guests: Donna Ruvolo, representing Friends of Grove Street Park

1. Meeting called to order at approximately 7:32 p.m.
2. Election of officers was held with the following officers unanimously voted in:
  - a. Janet Macdonald, Chair
  - b. Emily Walsh, Vice Chair
  - c. Nan Donald, Secretary
3. Donna Ruvolo provided a presentation on the CPA Grove Street Walking Path Project. The Friends of Grove Street Park, a group comprised mainly of residents neighboring the Grove Street Park who came together to review an existing plan for updating the park. The group worked together for about a year to build consensus on what they viewed as the foremost priorities:
  - a. A walking path that was Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant
  - b. Landscaping
  - c. Seating and benches

Ruvolo noted that the park had undergone a fair amount of erosion, which has created significant barriers to individuals with mobility issues, leaving the "tot lot" as the only portion of the park that was accessible to individuals needing wheelchairs or walkers. The Friends of Grove Street Park was awarded a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant to develop a plan to address the identified concerns. Since then the group has been working closely with the Public Works Department and the Office of Community Development. In addition to improving parking, particularly for persons needing accessible parking spaces, a fully accessible walking path, shade tree planting and improved seating have been incorporated into the plans. The plan also includes the installation of two 55-foot temporary batting tunnels to be used by Belmont Youth Baseball.

To move the project to the next phase, the Friends of Grove Street Park are reaching out to businesses, residents, and community organizations to help fund the project, as well as applying for additional CPA grant monies.

The Commission unanimously voted to provide a letter of support for the CPA Grove Street Walking Path Project.

The Commission also voted unanimously to provide financial support for the project, with the amount to be determined at a later date.

4. Belmont's 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 15th. Discussion was held regarding providing funding to secure American Sign Language interpreters for the event. A motion to provide the funding passed unanimously,
5. Janet Macdonald updated the Commission on a situation where she successfully provided conflict resolution regarding a Belmont Public Library patron using an unorthodox mode of transportation (a bicycle) within the library building.
6. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Nan Donald, Clerk.