



City of Portland  
Portland Disability Advisory Committee Agenda  
January 3, 2018

Bill Campbell, Jr., Chair of the Committee convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

- **Sign in**
  - In attendance: Jessica Russell, Derek O'Brien, Bill Campbell, Jr., Haley Pass, Karen Perry, Lisette Belanger, Michelle Ames, John LeMieux, Brooke Dempsey, Kayla Moore, Arricha Noe (interpreter), Mike Conkright, Mireille Kabongo, Alizah Brandwein, Carol Schiller
  - Absent Committee members: Bud Buzzell, Ken Shapiro, Hanna Aistrop, James Devine, Steve Leighton
- **Minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting.** Haley Pass moved to approve the minutes of the December 13th meeting and Derek O'Brien seconded. The remaining committee members in attendance voted unanimously to accept the minutes. No corrections were noted.
- **Continued brainstorming of focus areas for the PDAC:**
  - **disability parade:** conversation paused in Bud's absence
  - **certification for business friendliness**
    - i. John LeMieux raised the idea of creating a "best practices" memo that could be shares with the Chamber of Commerce and subsequently available to City businesses

- **Sidewalks:** Bill Campbell, Jr. recommended that we continue to focus on City sidewalks, asking what the City and local businesses are responsible for doing during snowstorms. Mandy shared the following guidance from the City's website:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1422/Winter-Sidewalks> The 14 miles of sidewalk in the Portland Downtown District are plowed by the Downtown District and Athletic Facilities crews. The 100 miles of neighborhood sidewalks outside of Downtown District are plowed by Parks, Horticulture and Cemetery crews. Portland Forestry Division maintains fire station driveways, school parking lots, and city parking lots.

Crews work hard after a storm to clear the snow from sidewalks and then treat any resulting ice. Sand and salt operations may continue around the clock for up to a week after a storm. Sidewalks have different drainage conditions than roads and have a tendency to create an "ice trough" resulting from melting snow of adjacent snowbanks. Crews monitor the conditions on a daily basis and lay down salt and sand as needed.

For properties that are not on a city sidewalk plow route, city ordinances require that adjacent property owners clear snow and ice from sidewalks. Business owners have 12 hours following a winter storm to do so and residential owners have 24 hours following a storm.

Many Portlanders and commuters walk or bicycle to work even during winter months. Help keep sidewalks safe – join us in helping Portland stay 'walkable' during the winter months! Clear the sidewalk out front, and help neighbors when possible.

Discussion ensued regarding the concern that neighborhoods and private businesses are not sufficiently attempting to clear the sidewalks consistent with these guidelines. John LeMieux shared that there is a distinction between what is a suitably cleared sidewalk for a disabled individual versus an able-bodied person. For example, a small piece of ice in the sidewalk can be treacherous for individuals with disabilities, and someone in a wheelchair may be forced into the street if a sidewalk is not shoveled. He shared his view that this an opportunity for education on the matter.

- **increasing public awareness of the PDAC**
  - i. Members expressed interest in the City issuing a press release about the creation of the formal PDAC committee, which Mandy said she would look into with the communications director.

- **Discussion of logistics of meetings**

- We discussed potentially changing the days and start times for meetings, as well as their frequency and length. Agreement was reached to maintain the status quo but, moving forward, having tighter times associated with the agenda items so that we stay on topic and aim to cover everything on that meeting's agenda. Many attendees agreed that discussing certain issues on email, outside of the meetings, has been productive.

- **Closed captioning:** we didn't have time to discuss

- **Parking challenges**

- Mandy shared that most of the responses that she received (in response to her email asking about challenges faced when parking at City Hall for PDAC meetings) was that parking is typically not a problem. She reminded attendees that folks with disabled plates or placards can park at meters for free and for twice the length posted. Lisette Belanger inquired whether attendees could get a special permit to attend the meetings.

- **New business**

Carol Schiller from University Neighborhood Organization (“UNO”) shared that she likes the parade idea and asked the group to consider using Longfellow Park as a site if a parade is held. She encouraged viewing of the video she created re. Longfellow Park (“Longfellow Park in the Dark”), which she hopes will become a destination (with its addition of lighting and ADA amenities) for those who are disabled: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=841zyk\\_XI90](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=841zyk_XI90). She also encouraged planning any such parade by working in subcommittees (e.g. parking and parades) and inviting the City's Parking Manager John Peverada to a PDAC meeting. More information at <https://m.facebook.com/universityneighborhoodorganization/> and <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1085/University-Neighborhood-Organization-UNO>.

- **Next meeting:** 2/7/2018 from 11 am to 12 pm in Room 24 in the basement of City Hall
- **Adjournment:** the meeting concluded at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mandy Levine

City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist