

**Orleans Commission on Disabilities
Meeting Minutes
January 25th, 2008 (3pm)
Orleans Council on Aging**

08 NOV 10 PM 12:58
TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

CM

Present: Jon Gilmore (Chair), Anne Kelleher, Jamie Balliett, Linda Willard, Carol Ciulla, Theresa Lane, Gerard Csaposs, and Orleans Police Chief Jeffery Roy (guest).

Commission Guest: Orleans Police Chief Jeffery Roy was introduced and JG posed the question to the group, "Are the HC parking spaces in Orleans being abused?" The Chief replied that in 2007 there had been only 8 violations and few citizen complaints. He also said that it was a tough issue to write a citation because sometimes the vehicle was driven by someone quite elderly (without a placard but in obvious state of weakness) or someone who had forgotten to display their existing placard. Several members, including GC, CC, JB, JG, and LW all spoke to the issue of witnessing illegal use of HC parking spaces on multiple occasions. Although the Chief said he does not support citizens writing tickets, he will make sure that officers respond to calls when a violation is observed, but that staffing may be limited at times. The group thanked the Chief for attending and he departed the meeting.

Old Business:

1. **Commission Quorum:** The Chair briefed the Commission on the long-term issue of meetings unable to occur because a quorum was not present. He explained the current size of up to 9 members and the options available. AK noted that going to 7 members would be better. TL asked what the current members number was and JG answered that when AK resigns (has told the group of this intention), that they would be 7. JB made a motion to recommend to the Orleans Selectmen to reduce the OCD from 9 to 7. This was approved by a 7-0 vote. JG agreed to send correspondence to the Selectmen.
2. **RMV Data on HC Placards:** The Chair reported a range of findings in regards to the question of how many residents used HC placards. After several efforts, he obtained MA RMV data that a total of 94 HC placards currently exist in Orleans. This number does not seem to fit with the national disabled average of 19% of the population and, given the older percentage of Orleans population. JB agreed that this data seems low and further inquiry is needed. CC noted that we could do our own survey. JG stated that a survey of the Orleans HC population is a good idea but getting data is hard because people are not always willing to participate or reveal their status. JG also reported that he met with George Meserve (the Orleans Planning Director) and discussed these issues. The town, he found out, does not maintain any records of the HC spaces and its up to the building department to enforce the current ADA standards in town. GC offered to do a survey of HC parking spaces across town.

New Business:

1. **Accessibility Outreach:** Orleans Chamber and Nauset Rotary: The Chair opened by talking about a need to build on the success of last year's award given to

Snow's for their excellent commitment in developing their HC access to their expanded building. JB outlined an idea to approach business members and work with them to update their HC signage and street painting. JB explained this would entail issuing grants to them from the current HC tickets fund (current balance around \$5,911). JG and GC offered their support to help design a program. CC and LW liked the idea. JB offered to investigate the idea further by talking with town leaders.

2. **Regional MOD Meeting:** The Chair announced that a regional MOD meeting was scheduled for April 16th at 12-3pm at Eastham Town Hall and he welcomed any members to attend.
3. **OCD and CAM Training:** The Chair explained that no Community Access Monitor training sessions have been held by the Massachusetts Commission on Disabilities on Cape Cod for some time and was looking into the idea of one being held in Orleans, possibly this fall. AK noted that the one she went to a few years ago was good but very technical. CC added that she liked the idea. JB said he would help to put it on if it is held in Orleans. GC said that it would take work and energy but would raise the awareness of these HC and related issues, region-wide. JG noted that the CAM training would last 2 full days from 9-4pm and would need 25 people signed up ahead of time. The OCD may also need to provide funds to offset the programming costs. The group offered voice support to JG going ahead to find a date (possibly Sept 24/25) and work on the logistics.
4. **Change Meeting Date and Time:** The Chair inquired if members wanted to change the date and time of the OCD monthly meeting and although TL noted an occasional conflict, all seemed OK keeping it the same.

Minutes Approved March 28, 2008

Minute Taker: JFB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JFB' with a stylized flourish extending from the end.