

**BOSTON COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
AGENDA  
March 30, 2011  
5:30 PM-7 PM**

**Fifth floor, Piemont Room, Boston City Hall**

**Introductions**

**Approval of February 23 Minutes**

**Election of Officers**

**Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

**Chair's Report: John Kelly**

**Sidewalk path of travel materials recommendations**

**AC in apartment buildings**

**Public Outreach -- reception, meeting out in community, etc.**

**Emergency Preparedness**

**Announcements**

**Public Input**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Next commission meeting is April 27, 5:30 PM-7 PM**

**Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

Present: Arnold Berry, Eileen Brewster, John Kelly, Carl Richardson, Heather Watkins and David Estrada. Absent: John Winske, Janice Ward, and Suzanne Levielle.

Staff Present: Kristen McCosh and Lakeysa Smith

Other: Frank O'Brien, Boston Public Works Department

Meeting commenced at 5:15 pm.

Minutes from February 23, 2011, Commission meeting were reviewed. Carl made a motion to accept, Arnold B. seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

The first agenda item was election of offices. John K announced that the election of offices would be put on hold until the Commission meeting next month, as three members were absent..

Commissioner's Report: Kristen M gave an update on the swearing-in of new and reappointed Commission members. She said that all the paperwork has been processed and that she will try to arrange for the City Clerk to schedule a group swearing-in at the next Commission meeting in April.

Kristen reported on a site visit that some Commission members made with people from the Public Works Department and the Boston Transportation Department to review different paving materials. The site visit was in Cambridge, and Commission members looked at: "cast in-place concrete" with both tooled joints and saw-cut joints, asphalt pavers, different sized granite pavers, concrete pavers, and grated surfaces.

Kristen reported on a contractor meeting she attended with Public Works to kick off the construction season. She said she was able to get inspectors to add curb cut compliance as a check-off item on inspection reports. John K asked if they were going to measure running slope and cross slope. Kristen said they are supposed to.

Kristen gave an update on a housing working group she established to try to link people with disabilities with accessible units. She is working with the Mayor's Housing Advisor and has met with CHAPA, MAAB, Fair Housing Committee, and Spaulding Rehab. The group has identified short term and long term goals – short term is to identify units by working with MassAccess and getting on the affordable marketing lists. Long term is training developers and seeking a model building project to showcase universal design. John K talked about working on "expiring use" apartments in the Fenway.

Kristen said she is continuing to work on snow removal and mapping issues to improve overall access in the city. Eileen B asked about bus shelters, if the city is going to reinstall the side panels they removed. Kristen M said no because of access issues with the sidewalk.

Chair's Report: John K reviewed the draft annual report he handed out. Carl R. stated that the line that says "Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms" should be revised to say "one to three year terms." The report was unanimously adopted.

John K gave an update on Remys restaurant. They had applied for a variance because they wanted to install a vertical lift instead of a ramp, which is required in new construction. Kristen M and John K wrote comments to the AAB in support of denying their variance request. The request was denied.

John gave a brief update on DPH and BPHC regarding AC in apartment buildings. He asked Kristen to try to schedule a follow up meeting with BPHC Commissioner Barbara Ferrer, whom she was supposed to meet with several months ago. Commission members are worried because time is running out before the hot weather gets here, and they still do not have an answer about the local waiver process.

John updated the Commission members on trying to get a waiver to allow conference calls for meetings. Currently no one can vote, nor count towards a quorum, who is not physically present.

Frank O from Public Works stated he was there because South End residents want to put brick pavers in a few blocks that are currently concrete. He said that residents are also upset about the amount of concrete used in pedestrian ramps -- they want more brick installed, such as the flared sides of the ramps. John talked about the City's informal agreement of "no new brick." Kristen M suggested this might be a good time to make it a formal agreement.

Carl R mentioned that he just returned from San Francisco, which is very accessible, and their tactile warning strips at curb ramps are yellow. Kristen M said the tactile strips put in by the city are grey, MBTA are yellow, and the state are red. After much discussion, the Commission voted to recommend yellow tactile warning strips.

Paving materials were discussed in detail. John K said he thinks granite is accessible in large blocks, like the southside block on Boylston street from Berkeley to Clarendon (near the old FAO Schwartz). Frank asked if it was more size than material that mattered. David E said he does not like granite. Kristen said she wanted to recommend concrete, except in historically significant areas, such as Audubon Circle. She reported that South End residents said concrete can be worse than brick. After much discussion the Commission voted to request a meeting with the South End residents to present access issues surrounding brick and other pavers. The vote was unanimous. Kristen said she would report back to Para in Public Works and arrange a date for a meeting. John K said that the Commission would be willing to review time-sensitive projects, like Spaulding Rehab, on a case by case basis until recommendations are made.

Other agenda items were tabled until next month because of the time. John K mentioned the possibility of extending the meetings to two hours.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes done by Kristen M. and Lakeysha S.