



## Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

### DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

Wednesday December 10, 2014

5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### AGENDA- REVISED

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of November Minutes
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Architectural Access Update- *Kathryn Quigley*
- Standing Committees – Architectural Access, Information Access, Community Access, Legislative Advocacy & Education Committee, Executive Committee
- Old Business
- Old Action Items
- New Business
- New Action Items
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: January 14th, 2015 5:30-7:30

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## **MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE**

All meetings held by the City of Boston are required to be accessible for persons with disabilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accommodations are available upon request to any person who requires alternately formatted materials, auxiliary aids, or another accommodation to ensure effective communication and access to attend meetings held by City departments and programs. Please allow at least 2 weeks to arrange for accommodations.

Requests for accommodations may be sent to the contact person for the meeting, or may be forwarded to: Kristen McCosh, City of Boston Disability Commissioner and ADA Coordinator, at [kristen.mccosh@cityofboston.gov](mailto:kristen.mccosh@cityofboston.gov) or 617-635-3682 (voice) or 617-635-2541 (TTY).

## Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, December 10, 2014

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Present:	Staff Present:
(AS) Allegra Stout (BR) Ben Roux (CR) Carl Richardson (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winkse (KR) Kyle Robidoux (TTH) Tee Thach-Hasan (ZA) Zary Amirhousseini (On Phone)	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (JH) Jesse Holm (JD) Jessica Doonan (KQ) Kathryn Quigley

### **Tee Thach-Hasan Leaves Board**

During attendance Tee Thach-Hasan (TTH) announced that this meeting will be her last meeting as an Advisory Board member.

**November Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve November minutes made by John Winkse (JW) and seconded by Carl Richardson (CR). Minutes approved by board.

### **Chair's Report: Heather Watkins**

Heather Watkins (HW) noted that the letter of support in regards to the Long Island Shelter closing was mailed to the Mayor Martin J. Walsh. HW mentioned that she heard the possibility of the shelter moving to the old Radius Hospital but nothing was confirmed. HW also attended the Massachusetts Conference for Women and was moved by both Lupita Nyong'o and Hilary Clinton's speeches. HW noted that Eric Garner had disabilities - asthma and diabetes, furthering the need for disability awareness in law enforcement. Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) will be looking into the partnership between Boston Police Department and the Boston Emergency Services Team and will look into them coming to the Board to present on their work together. HW will be e-mailing to the Board a quote that she found regarding mental health in adults and incarceration.

### **Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) thanked Tee for all of her hard work on the Board the past few years and her important perspective as a parent. KMC mentioned that now the Board has two open seats and that there may be efforts soon to try to expand the board soon from nine to thirteen seats. KMC will be nominating Marc (Moses) Mallard for one of the two open seats at this time.

KMC touched upon a few different draft policies that have an impact on the community and are currently open for public comment. KMC just sent policy comments on the Proposed Open Space Plan for 2015-2021 and is working on notes for the Boston Housing Authority Housing Proposal.

KMC provided an update on changing the language on Accessible Parking signs from "Handicap Parking" to "Accessible Parking" stating that the specific wording is in state law M.G.L c. 40, §22A and would have to be petitioned to change. KMC also noted that the City is hiring a consultant to map out all parking signs in Boston. This work may result in accessible parking spaces being open to the public to search and view so KMC is looking into possibly adding a residential requirement to the spaces; no changes have

been made on this yet, though. John Winske (JW) voiced some concerns about more commercial areas and Allegra Stout (AS) clarified that the sticker requirement would only apply to those roads that already have a residential requirement in place.

KMC also updated the Board on the City Council meeting with Uber, Lyft, a few Boston cab companies, and BPD's Hackney Division. KMC is considering proposing to the Taxi Advisory Committee that UBER pay for the needed wheelchairs accessible vehicle (WAV) modifications so that both the cab companies and UBER can use the WAVs. Jessica Doonan (JD) noted that there will be a public meeting with Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) and the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) regarding ride-sharing at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at the State Transportation Building. HW and JW mentioned that a large portion of the issues ride-sharing companies are facing in Boston are in regards to the insurance of the vehicles while carrying passengers. Carl Richardson (CR) pointed out that the National Federation of the Blind is suing UBER for a lack of access in southern California.

Lastly, KMC noted that she will be posting a job opening for an Architectural Access Project Coordinator soon.

#### **Architecture Report: Kathryn Quigley**

Kathryn Quigley (KQ) noted that the new Architectural Access Project Coordinator position will be for someone to work with her. KQ also provided an update on the sidewalk café draft policy, a standardized plan for sidewalk cafes so that an accessible pedestrian route will be maintained in public rights of way. It will also help to streamline the approval process for restaurants seeking permits for outdoor seating. The policy has been written in formal legal language and will be presented at a public hearing on December 18<sup>th</sup>. If there is no opposition the guidelines will be approved for the 2015 season. The policy, if adopted, will only apply to new sidewalk cafes or when a change in ownership occurs.

KQ also discussed the Sidewalk Accessibility Partnership Program, a pilot program with a number of representatives from City Departments that is focused on improving access throughout the Leather District. This pilot program aims to work with business owners block by block to determine sidewalk ownership and works towards repairing sidewalk conditions. With sidewalk ownership determined, this pilot program may facilitate sidewalk ownership to be transitioned to the City of Boston, so that future maintenance can be addressed by the Public Works Department (PWD). A walk through will be conducted in the near future with the goal of it being a capital improvement project next year.

Lastly, KQ noted that the planning has begun for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this July and the website is now up and running at [www.newenglandada.org/ada25boston](http://www.newenglandada.org/ada25boston).

Additionally, KQ noted that the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) has updated their website and project documents are now available online for comment in PDF form. KQ will be sending out the link to the documents to the Advisory Board.

#### **Old Business**

KMC announced that the Board meetings for 2015 will be on the fourth Thursday of every month on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall, room 900. KMC will look into parking options for Ben Roux (BR) for these meetings. The strategic planning meeting will also occur in January and KMC will be sending out the date options for that.

### **Old Action Items**

No updates.

### **Standing Subcommittees: Architecture Access, Community Access, Information Access, Legislative Advocacy & Education, Executive**

No updates.

### **New Business**

AS vocalized concerns regarding the wording of the last paragraph of the Accessibility Symbol Letter and suggested excluding the last paragraph regarding restroom signs.

JW made a motion to accept the Advisory Board International Symbol of Accessibility Statement Letter with changes, the Advisory Board Parks Open Space Letter, the BHA Housing Proposal Letter and the changing of parking signs from "Handicap Parking" to "Accessible Parking". This motion was seconded by CR and unanimously approved by the Board.

### **New Action Items**

CR announced that the Massachusetts State House is forming an Access Advisory Council. KMC will be participating in this Council.

AS announced that there is a Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Housing Plan hearing on Monday, December 15th at the Amory Street Development, 125 Amory Street, Roxbury at 11:00 AM. In addition to AS, JW also plans on attending. JW feels that the plan is not in support of people with disabilities and does not agree with the proposal suggestions. KMC noted that staff will be giving their comments internally but that the Advisory Board should feel free to comment as group and submit to the BHA. Kyle Robidoux (KR) mentioned that he will try and make the hearing.

AS also announced that Boston Center for Independent Living and Disability Policy Consortium will be hosting a Housing Advocacy Training on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 11am-2pm on the second floor of 89 South Street in Boston.

### **Public Input**

Marc (Moses) Mallard suggested that the Advisory Board look into having someone come to a meeting and provide training on mental health. Dusya Lybouskaya also introduced herself and thanked the Board for all their work related to BHA housing issues.

JW asked for a round of applause for TTH and then made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by CR and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.