

## **DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

**December 11, 2013**

**5:30-7:30 p.m.**

### **AGENDA- REVISED**

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of November Minutes
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Ben Roux*
- Architectural Access Updates – *Kathryn Aldrich*
- Freedom Trail Condition Assessment/Connect Historic Boston – *Bill Egan, Chief Civil Engineer, Public Works Department*
- Standing Committees – Information Access, Community Access
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

## **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 11, 2013

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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
(AS) Allegra Stout (BR) Ben Roux (CR) Carl Richardson (HW) Heather Watkins  <b>Not Present:</b> (JW) John Winske (PH) Paulette Houston (RN) Raine Newman (TTH) Tee Thach-Hasan	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KA) Kathryn Aldrich (JH) Jesse Holm
<b>Guest:</b> Vineet Gupta (Boston Transportation Department) & Laurie Pessah (Toole Design)	

**November Meeting Minutes:** Not reviewed.

**Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

KMC stated that she has two positions opening soon; Program & Policy Specialist and Advocacy & Outreach Specialist. KMC also mentioned that there are two open Board positions that will become available soon – KMC will make recommendations for board once resumes have been collected and interviews have completed. KMC stated that unfortunately she has not had a lot of time to do outreach for the Board positions yet, but she will work on this soon.

KMC stated that she wanted to discuss Board member attendance briefly. KMC asked that Board members please try to come as often as they can, and be mindful of their number of absences. KMC stated that she will probably have conversations with individuals on a case-by-case basis if attendance becomes an issue. KMC also stated that JH will be tracking excused absences each month starting in 2014. KMC reminded the Board that if individuals do not have the time to commit to the Board, they can be involved with the Advisory Board without actually being on the board itself.

KMC announced that that Mayor-Elect Walsh asked KMC to stay on as Disability Commissioner. Mayor Thomas M. Menino (TMM) has always been extremely supportive, and Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh (MW) is very supportive of the work that we do as well.

### **Chair's Report: Ben Roux**

BR stated that he would like to quickly address the Attendance issues that have been occurring over the past year with the Board members. BR reviewed the Advisory Board Commission Bylaws, which state, "If any member is absent from three regularly scheduled meetings in any one calendar year, a recommendation shall be made to the Mayor that he/she be removed from the Commission, unless any or all absences have been excused for good cause by the chairperson. Good cause shall include, but not limited to: illness, a death in the family, weather and professional responsibilities."

BR stated that he just wanted to remind the group that they must e-mail him regarding an absence from a meeting, and Board members should be mindful of their attendance and remember some of the reasons for "good cause" in missing a meeting. BR stated that each situation of poor attendance will be address on a case-by-case basis.

### **Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich**

KA stated that our office is hoping to get usability ratings on WAV taxi cabs soon.

Public Works Department (PWD) will be presenting regarding accessibility on Beacon Hill at the December Beacon Hill Architectural Commission Meeting – some of what will be discussed in this meeting will be tactile warning strips and materials. If able, please plan to attend this meeting. KA stated that she would send out exact date in an e-mail, but the meeting will be in room 801 of Boston City Hall.

KA stated that she heard London Architect David Bonner speak at the Statehouse recently regarding Historic preservation and Universal Access. KA stated that it was an interesting and informative lecture.

### **Connect Historic Boston: Vineet Gupta & Laurie Pessah**

VG described Connect Historic Boston, stating that it is an initiative to improve historic sites in Boston; Commercial Street, Constitution Road, Blackstone Block and Joy Street. The project has a strict timetable, and the final design must be finished by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

VG summarized some of what will be completed at each site; Commercial Street currently has old bricks that will be replaced with wire cut bricks. At Causeway Street the entire street is being raised and bike lanes will be in middle of the road. VG stressed that everything that is done in this project will be ADA compliant, and KA stated that the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities is working with Public Works Department (PWD) to ensure accessibility is achieved.

### **Standing Committees: Information Access**

BR stated that he contacted Jonathan O'Dell at the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) regarding Emergency Preparedness video logs for the City of Boston website. BR stated that he has not heard back from Jonathan yet, but he will keep the group posted on this.

KMC stated that she will be talking to her Budget Analyst regarding hiring a vendor for creating video logs.

### **Standing Committees: Community Access**

HW stated that this standing Committee needs more traction and that there is a big need for work in this area. KMC stated that she needs more staff to continue work on this, and she is hopeful that this will happen in 2014.

### **Old Business**

HW mentioned that she attended the Massachusetts Conference for Women and was surprised by the lack of women with disabilities in attendance.

AS stated that she was not able to attend the Somerville Disability Commission Meeting this month because the Redline was down. AS is hoping to attend in the near future and hopes other Commission Members will join her.

### **New Business**

The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) has four open positions right now; an Administrative Assistant, Ombudsperson, and two per-diem Ombudsperson positions. Send resumes to Bruce Menin, Executive Director for the Disability Policy Consortium.

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) has a few open positions (RN Consultant, Disability Peer Advocate, and Director of Services). Resumes and cover letters should be sent to Shawn Kelley at [skelley@bostoncil.org](mailto:skelley@bostoncil.org), and job descriptions are available at [www.bostoncil.org](http://www.bostoncil.org).

The Multicultural Independent Living Center of Boston (MILCB) has an open position for a Nursing Home Coordinator; contact their office ([admin@milcb.org](mailto:admin@milcb.org)) for details about the position.

AS inquired about the noise and lighting issues in the Piemonte room. AS stated that the buzzing sounds from the lights made it difficult to hear. KMC stated she could look into different room, or that we could possibly move tables away from the lighting that is creating the buzzing sound.

AS also informed the Board that the MBTA voted to lower The Ride fare to \$3 today. "Premium" areas are still the same amount of money; those areas are not monitored under the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA). CR stated that it might be interesting to find out what percentage of trips taken are premium versus non-premium?

AS mentioned that she is really interested in reaching out to different populations in filling the openings on the Advisory Board. AS asked the Advisory Board if they had ideas about how we can reach out to different neighborhoods throughout Boston. KMC stated that she would touch base with Multicultural Independent Living Center of Boston (MILCB) regarding this.

**Public Input**

Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.