



Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

Wednesday July 9, 2014

5:30-7:30 p.m.

AGENDA- REVISED

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of June Minutes
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Architectural Access Updates – *Kathryn Quigley*
- Standing Committees – Architectural Access, Information Access, Community Access, Legislative Advocacy & Education Committee, Executive Committee
- Board Presentations Moving Forward- *Jesse Holm*
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: August 13th, 5:30-7:30

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 or 617-635-3682 (voice) or 617-635-2541 (TTY).

Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, July 9, 2014
5th Floor Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Present: (AS) Allegra Stout (BR) Ben Roux (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winkse (TTH) Tee Thach-Hasan (ZA) Zary Amirhousseini (KR) Kyle Robidoux (DW) D'amore West	Staff Present: (KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KQ) Kathryn Quigley (JH) Jesse Holm (JD) Jessica Doonan
Not Present: (CR) Carl Richardson	

June Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve June minutes made by John Winske (JW) and seconded by Ben Roux (BR). Minutes approved by board.

Chair's Report: Heather Watkins

Heather Watkins (HW) went over the facts of Senate Bill 1869 and made a motion to support the Bill through a letter of support. This motion was seconded by D'amore West (DW) and approved by all present. HW asked the board if the second Wednesday of each month worked for the Board for meetings and all agreed.

Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Quigley

Kathryn Quigley (KQ) stated that on June 19th the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) voted to adopt an Accessibility Checklist into its Article 80 Review Process. So far the results have been positive and very supportive. Additionally, KQ stated that she drafted accessibility questions for a pilot program that is being built a company called MeWe. The app for a smart phone, called Coinspect, is designed to assist individuals with quickly and simply assessing the access components of small businesses. KMC will determine who will be part of the pilot program and test the application.

On July 17th Mayor Martin Walsh (MMW) will be speaking with the Beacon Hill residents in regards to the access upgrades; MJW will let Beacon Hill residents know his final decision. KMC will follow up with Board members in regards to attending the meeting.

Standing Subcommittees: Architecture Access

KQ noted that there is a housing development going in at 77 Terrace St on Mission Hill that 41 out of 44 units will have accessible entrances. All of the patios will be accessible as well as the public gardens. Ten units of the development will be affordable and three will be fully wheelchair accessible. The developers have equally emphasized energy efficiency and accessibility in their plans. KQ is also working to get plans from the Architectural Access Board electronically in order to speed up the process. She thanked the subcommittee for their continual work and recommendations, citing a recent recommendation against specialty concrete on a sidewalk and the weight that the subcommittee's opinion on the proposed materials had on the decision.

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

No Updates.

Board Presentations

Jesse Holm (JH) asked the Board for input as to whether or not they would like agencies or organizations to come to the monthly meetings and present. It was noted by John Winske (JW) that agencies were always able to come to the meetings and introduce themselves during the public input section. Ben Roux suggested that we formally send out information about our Board so that agencies know about the work we do. It was also suggested that presentations from different city departments might help to share information between departments and promote collaboration. It was decided that the Executive Subcommittee will discuss a plan moving forward.

Old Business

JH stated that the ADA Day celebration will be on Thursday, July 24th on City Hall plaza. There will be roughly 30-40 disability organizations and City of Boston departments in attendance. The parade will begin at 11am and the Mayor will be speaking at 12:45pm.

Allegra Stout announced that there was a one hundred thousand dollar increase to the alternative housing voucher program in this year's budget which is a major success. She also talked about the housing candidate forum that happened before the Board meeting and reported that it was well attended (300-400 people).

New Business

No New Business.

Public Input

Isis Stevens spoke briefly about the lack of accessibility of MBTA buses, stating particularly that wheelchair seating and aisle width seemed to be the biggest issues. JW spoke briefly of the history of accessibility on the MBTA, the Access Advisory Committee and the quarterly public meetings on the lawsuit with the MBTA. Olivia Richard brought up the idea of city wide disability etiquette media campaign.

HW made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by DW and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.