



Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

Wednesday June 11, 2014

5:30-7:30 p.m.

AGENDA- REVISED

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of April Minutes
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Ben Roux*
- Architectural Access Updates – *Kathryn Quigley*
- Election of Board Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Standing Committees – Architectural Access, Information Access, Community Access, Legislative Advocacy & Education Committee, Executive Committee
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

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Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, June 11, 2014
5th Floor Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

May Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve April minutes made by Carl Richardson (CR) and seconded by Allegra Stout (AS). Minutes approved by board.

Chair's Report: Ben Roux

Ben Roux (BR) had nothing to report.

Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Quigley

Kathryn Quigley (KQ) stated that she is continuing to work with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) on a checklist and guidelines to be adopted into the Article 80 I process. The accessibility guidelines will be presented to the BRA board later this month to become practice. KQ and Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) are also continuing to work with on accessibility guidelines for sidewalk cafes as well as a system for responding to sidewalk accessibility complaints. KQ and KMC are working together with the Architectural Access Board (AAB) on new regulations with the goal being equivalency with the ADA.

KMC also mentioned two exciting projects. One is software called CoInspect that is being developed by a man named Manik Suir who works for a company called MeWe. This software can be used to evaluate the accessibility of businesses. The goal is to pilot the application for content and usability. The goal of the application itself is to have residents assist small businesses in improving access to their storefronts. The other is the announcement of a program in Cambridge called "Storefronts-For-All Cambridge" that matches the money used for access modifications up to 90%. KMC will be working to see if a similar program can be started in Boston related to Main Streets.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) announced that the PCA parking Permit Program is up and running and has had a few applicants already. Jessica Doonan (JD) will send Allegra Stout (AS) a few sentences about the program so that AS can help get the word out. KMC and JH will be providing training at the Boston Public Library (BPL) for staff regarding interactions with people with disabilities as well as providing a history of the disability rights movement. KMC informed the Board that the BPL has JAWS, Zoomtext, and a braille printer. The Commission is now has a Twitter account now and the Facebook page is in the process. Captions are also now available on all City Council meetings both on television and on the web and there will be a large TV installed in the Council chambers with real time captions.

KMC states that she is on a task force with various city and state agencies to address placard abuse. Work is also being done to Commonwealth Avenue MBTA stations to make them more accessible and an overall mobility access plan is being worked on by KMC and KQ for the City of Boston. JW pointed out that the MBTA will be doing a review of all of the bus stations in the city at the same time that the Mayor is checking on all of the sidewalks in the city and that may prove to be an effective partnership for access. There will also be a community meeting in July in to discuss Beacon Hill accessibility upgrades.

Vote for Board Officers

JW made a motion to accept the slate of nominations of officers (Heather Watkins as Chair, Allegra Stout as Vice Chair, John Winske for Secretary, and Tee Thach-Hasan as Treasurer) and to vote by acclamation which was seconded by CR and unanimously approved by all. The vote was held and unanimously approved by all. KMC will be contacting the officers in the Executive Committee soon.

Standing Subcommittees: Architecture Access

KQ noted that there was an email sent out looking for feedback from the Advisory Board on paving materials for a new development. In the future any feedback from the committee is greatly encouraged, especially if drawn from personal experience with any of the materials.

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

No Updates.

Standing Subcommittees: Information Access

No Updates.

Old Business

AS is working with Felicity Lingle in regards to the disability pride parade and will give more updates when known.

New Business

AS noted there are also some issues with the Boston Pride event this coming weekend about providing CART for the event. A request has been remade although no confirmation has been received yet.

JW announced that on June 26th he and Heather Watkins will be moderating the Gubernatorial Forum on Disability Issues from 1:00-4:30pm at Perkins School for the Blind. There are seven candidates confirmed to attend at this time.

KMC announced that the Community Forum is on online and captioned for the public to view. There will also be a community meeting at Institute of Human centered Design on June 24th at 1:30pm to kick off planning for next year's 25th anniversary celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Public Input

No Public Input.

CR made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by BR and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.