



# Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

## DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

**Wednesday May 14, 2014  
5:30-7:00 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*
- Update on Rules, Regulations, and Role of Advisory Board Members
- Nominations for Board Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Standing Committees (3) – Architectural Access, Information Access, Community Access
- New Committees – (2) Legislative Advocacy & Education Committee, Executive Committee
- Letter of Support for Remote Participation Bill – *Allegra Stout*
- Disability Pride Parade - *Felicity Lingle*
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

## MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

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Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, May 14, 2014  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
(AS) Allegra Stout (BR) Ben Roux (CR) Carl Richardson (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winkse (TTH) Tee Thach-Hasan (ZA) Zary Amirhousseini (KR) Kyle Robidoux (DW) D'amore West	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KQ) Kathryn Quigley (JH) Jesse Holm (JD) Jessica Doonan (CM) Chris Morawski
<b>Guest:</b> Felicity Lingle	

**April Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve April minutes made by Carl Richardson (CR) and seconded by Kyle Robidoux (KR). Minutes approved by board.

**Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) noted that the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities Annual report was distributed during the Community Forum outlining Commission initiatives and activities and, in the consideration of time, KMC noted that individuals could pose questions if there were any, for which there were none

**Chair's Report: Ben Roux**

Ben Roux (BR) stated that he wished he could have been at the Community Forum but asked the Board for their thoughts on the event. CR felt it went well, stating that mental health and school systems and inclusive education were two important issues that were brought up a number of times throughout the event. John Winske (JW) also pointed out that housing was identified by constituents as a priority; accessibility of units, affordability, and marketing efforts of new developments seemed to be consistent issues. Kathryn Quigley (KQ) stated that sometimes, while a unit may be accessible, it is often not affordable.

**Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Quigley**

KQ stated that she is working with the legal department and the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) on Article 80 language that will require a detailed accessibility study before developers can be approved for a project. KQ is also currently drafting guidelines on sidewalk cafes for developers. KQ and KMC are working together with the Architectural Access Board (AAB) on new regulations with the goal being equivalency with the ADA.

**Updates on Rules and Regulations**

KMC informed the Commission that the legislation that enables the Commission is MGL, Chapter 40, Section 8J. KMC will send out all the enabling legislation and Commission bylaws in an e-mail to the Advisory Board next week. KMC encouraged Board members to be active and engaged, noting that a

quorum is at least five board members and, without a quorum, the board is unable to move forward with votes. KMC also noted that, while the Board currently meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, which can be changed by Board members if there is a more convenient meeting time.

#### **Nominations for Board Officers**

BR stated that nominations should be made for board positions; positions are for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. CR suggested that the bylaws be revised at some point in the future to remove the Treasurer position, as the Commission does not have a budget or financial responsibilities. Allegra Stout (AS) also asked whether or not a Secretary role is needed as well since the Disability Commission staff currently takes meeting minutes. AS stated that maybe the position of Secretary could involve keeping track of the subcommittees or the advocacy letters.

AS was nominated to the position of Chair by BR and the nomination was seconded by CR. AS declined the nomination due to other commitments. Heather Watkins (HW) was nominated for Chair by AS. HW accepted the nomination. JW then nominated AS as Vice Chair which she accepted. CR nominated JW for Secretary as well as Tee Thach-Hasan (TTH) for Treasurer which both individuals accepted.

#### **Standing Subcommittees: Architecture Access**

KQ noted that the Variance Request for Bostonia Restaurant was denied and therefore the second floor does not have a license for occupancy at this time.

#### **Standing Subcommittees: Community Access**

HW briefly explained the goals of the Community Access Subcommittee for new Advisory Board Members, stating that so far this Subcommittee has been trying to increase accessibility to local Boston businesses for persons with disabilities. Recently there was a \$400,000 increase in funding and HW will send out more info to the board after the meeting.

#### **Standing Subcommittees: Information Access**

No Updates.

#### **New Committees**

Jesse Holm briefly went over each subcommittee. They are now as follows:

##### Community Access Subcommittee

This subcommittee has focused on all aspects of accessibility in local Boston neighborhoods; specifically, there has been work done on creating physical access to local businesses. This subcommittee has been involved with the Boston Main Streets Initiative. This subcommittee may also begin working on youth programming and youth services in local communities.

##### Information Access Subcommittee

This subcommittee has focused on web accessibility, with a specific interest in sensory communication and conducting a full-scale web audit for cityofboston.gov in order to increase accessibility.

##### Architectural Access Subcommittee

This subcommittee has focused on physical accessibility, reviewing Architectural Access Board variances and other related issues.

### Legislative Advocacy & Education Subcommittee

This subcommittee may focus their efforts on influencing different legislation that may affect the disability community. This subcommittee may look at education law and reform.

### Executive Subcommittee – Closed Committee

This subcommittee may focus on administrative issues concerning the board. The Subcommittee requires participation from the Chair, Vice Chair, and Disability Commissioner.

Board Members signed up for subcommittees they wanted to be a part of. The subcommittees are now as follows:

#### Advocacy and Education

Allegra Stout  
Tee Thach-Hasan  
D'amore West

#### Architecture

Kyle Robidoux  
Zary Amirhosseini  
Carl Richardson  
John Winske

#### Community

Heather Watkins  
D'amore West

#### Information

Zary Amirhosseini  
Ben Roux  
Carl Richardson

#### Executive

Ben Roux  
Heather Watkins

### **Letter of Support for Remote Participation Bill**

AS gave an update on Bill S1985 which is now in the House Committee for Bills in Third Reading. AS will send out the names and e-mail addresses of the representatives involved. JW noted that that committee is typically where Bills stay unless encouraged to move to the floor. AS will make a form letter for the Board members to review, comment on and approve. The revised letter will then be send to State representatives in the Third Reading Committee.

### **Disability Pride Parade**

Felicity Lingle (FL) identified herself as a late deafened Boston resident whose would like to organize a Disability Pride Parade in Boston. JW noted there used to be a Disability Pride Parade, but it stopped being organized approximately seven or eight years ago. JW suggested organizing a Disability Pride parade on the same day as ADA day and have the parade be either at the beginning of the day. JW suggested that a small parade from the State House or Park Street Station to Boston City hall might be

small enough to organize with the limited amount of time. KMC suggested that the Commission organize this event so that it is community-based. JW suggested contacting the Easter Seals Youth Group to see if they would be interested in getting involved in the planning process KMC volunteered to assist with any permitting issues but would suggest a Board member to be the point person to work with FL; AS volunteered to be the Board contact person regarding the planning of this event.

**Old Business**

No Updates

**New Business**

No Updates.

**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 6:50 p.m.