



Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

Wednesday October 8, 2014

5:30-7:30 p.m.

AGENDA- REVISED

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of July and September Minutes
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Architectural Access Update- *Kristen McCosh*
- Standing Committees – Architectural Access, Information Access, Community Access, Legislative Advocacy & Education Committee, Executive Committee
- Gubernatorial Candidate Survey
- Strategic Plan for 2015
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: November 12th, 5:30-7:30

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MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

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Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, October 8, 2014
5th Floor Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

<p>Present: (CR) Carl Richardson (BR) Ben Roux (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winkse (ZA) Zary Amirhousseini (On phone)</p> <p>Not Present: (AS) Allegra Stout (TTH) Tee Thach-Hasan (KR) Kyle Robidoux</p>	<p>Staff Present: (KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (JH) Jesse Holm (JD) Jessica Doonan</p>
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July Meeting Minutes: The July meeting minutes were tabled due to no quorum.

September Meeting Minutes: The September minutes were tabled due to no quorum.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) discussed the Main Streets program and gave a recap of the access audit that was done by Institute of Human Centered Design for City Hall. Property Management will be redoing some of the signage throughout the building which should help with access. KMC also briefly discussed Disability Mentoring Day, which is confirmed for Thursday, October 30th in Boston City Hall. Ten constituents and two Boston Public School (BPS) students will be involved. Disability Mentoring Day is part of Disability Employment Month and information about other events this month will be sent out to the Board.

KMC noted that she has been appointed to the Taxi Commission and that her three points of concern in regards to the taxis are lack of compliant wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs), need for more training for WAV drivers, and process of trying to get a WAV cab through the radio associations.

<http://www.cityofboston.gov/intergovernmental/taxiadvisory.asp>

Uber and similar services were brought up and KMC will look into where each stand in Boston in regards to accessibility. John Winkse noted that he met with Uber and Councilor Wu and the meeting seemed positive. The MBTA is in the final stages for picking a vendor for the cab RIDE pilot program. KMC recommended two companies that had WAV vehicles. Right now the pilot program specs do not require WAV vehicles but KMC is advocating for that change.

D'amore West has stepped down from the Board and therefore nominations will be held again.

Chair's Report: Heather Watkins

Heather Watkins (HW) spoke briefly about an event she went to on October 7th called Krip Hop featuring Leroy Moore of Berkeley, CA and Keith Jones of Boston, MA. These two artists spoke extensively about disabilities and police brutality. KMC noted that more training for police is something

on her radar since there have been so many incidences on the news of the Deaf community and the police. HW also went to an event prior to the Board meeting hosted by the Multi-cultural Independent Living Center regarding health and disability in communities of color. This event had a good turnout and talked a lot about prescription changes, hospital access and lack of insurance

Architecture Report: Kathryn Quigley

Kathryn Quigley (KQ) did not have much to report since she has just returned from maternity leave but intends to be more involved in pre-filing meetings for the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). KQ is also working on a calendar system so that the architecture subcommittee can see when different deadlines are and is able to comment on projects more often. KMC noted that the accessibility checklist seems to be making a difference in pre-filing meetings. KMC had no updates on the Beacon Hill situation but did mention that the Mayor's housing plan will be coming out soon and it looks at all sections of housing, with "elderly disabled" and "non-elderly disabled" as two separate categories.

Standing Subcommittee: Architecture Access

KQ reiterated that the calendar will be assembled soon to help the subcommittee have a better idea of what projects are coming up and when comments are due.

Standing Subcommittee: Community Access

HW is working with the subcommittee on Main Streets and solidifying main action items.

Standing Subcommittee: Information Access

Jessica Doonan (JD) is working with the subcommittee to create a priority list for the subcommittee moving forward.

Standing Subcommittee: Legislative Advocacy & Education

Jesse Holm (JH) noted that the subcommittee is starting to create action items and is hoping to meet the week of October 20th.

Standing Subcommittee: Executive

KMC explained that the subcommittee will be collecting priorities first and then meeting to set up the strategic plan for 2015. KMC also spoke about the desire to have monthly action items for the Commission to do each month. An example of these items could be letters on anything that the Board would like to take a stand. JW requested that one action item be looking into the gray tactile warning strips that are on Massachusetts Ave and other older construction. Carl Richardson (CR) would also like to make sure that apps created by the City of Boston and documents uploaded to the web by the City of Boston are accessible for everyone. It has been decided that it is too late in the race for Governor so the disability survey will not be created.

Old Business

No Updates.

Action Items

KMC asked the Board about their feelings surrounding the new wheelchair symbol. The Board is generally in favor of the existing International symbol of accessibility (ISA).

New Business

CR brought up that Charlie Washburn approached him from VSA Mass and inquired as to presenting to the Board. KMC suggested he be put in touch with the new Arts Commission.

JW noted that the Boston listening session for Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will take place on October 15th at Jackson Mann School in Allston from 6pm-8pm. The goal of these listening sessions is to create new policy initiatives. He also informed the Board of Disability Policy Consortiums fundraising event on October 23rd from 5:30-7:30pm in Dorchester which will honor MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, Kim and Brian Charlson, and Dennis Heaphy.

JH pointed out that the Board meetings will now have a conference line every meeting and that JD will be sending out the number. KMC brought up that there is an opportunity to have the Board meetings televised and captioned but that it would require the meetings to be moved to the third Wednesday of each month.

Public Input

Emily Cameron introduced herself and explained that she was observing the meeting as part of a class requirement for her Masters of Public Administration at Suffolk University.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.