

**BOSTON COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES**

**AGENDA**

**April 27, 2011, 5:30 PM- 7:30 PM  
Fifth floor, Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall**

Introductions

Approval of March 29 Minutes

Nomination and Election of Officers

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Chair's Report: John Kelly

Variance sharing procedure

Spaulding Hospital Materials/General materials recommendations

Public Outreach

Emergency Preparation

Announcements

Public Input

Old Business

New Business

**Next commission meeting is May 25, 5:00 PM- 7:30 PM, MBTA general manager Richard Davey is scheduled to join us from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM.**

**Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes for  
Wednesday April 27, 2011**

Present: Janice Ward, John Kelly, Eileen Brewster, Arnold Berry, Heather Watkins, Carl Richardson, Suzanne Leveille, and Dave Estrada. Commissioner Kristen McCosh and Lakeysha Smith attended from the City.

The meeting was convened at 5:37.

John Kelly asked for a motion to accept March minutes, Carl Richardson made a motion which was seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Nomination for Treasury: Eileen nominated Arnold Berry for Treasurer, Arnold Berry accepted the motion. Janice seconded the motion, and approval was unanimous.

Carl Richardson nominated that John Kelly remain chair. John Kelly accepted. Janice Ward seconded the motion and approval was unanimous.

Commissioner Report: Kristen M. reported that the City of Boston will be hosting a community meeting with B.C.I.L. as a supporting organization, scheduled to meet May 19, 2011. The time will be 1

p.m.-- 4 p.m. in Room 900. Commission members are welcome to attend along with residents and any community advocates, Kristen M. will send out e-mail to welcome community attendees.

Kristen M met with a group called Accessible Places. They are developing an app and a website to map places throughout the city. John K asked about getting sidewalk and properties and business data. Owners need to know where curb cuts are located and if they are their responsibility for snow removal. The location of HPS parking signs downtown could be placed on a map. As much info as possible should be included in map applications. Carl stressed to make sure visually impaired can access the information. Kristen M. will continue to investigate mapping.

Kristen M sent a request to law department regarding snow removal follow up. She is still waiting to ask the Mayor for an Executive Order in regards to requiring snow removal at curb cuts. Group has talked about using HP Parking fine money for local business to hire teens to shovel. This has not been vetted out yet. The Director of Administrative and Finance will have to approve the HP fine money going to the Commission. Should we be proposing to raise fines? Jay Walsh said we would need a business plan to get this approved.

Carl R. questioned using HP parking fine funds for snow removal, Janice W. and Arnold B. asked that we receive language for proper use of funds for HP parking. Kristen M. views this as a long term goal. Heather W. express that the public need more education on fines involving HPS parking.

At the meeting hosted by Law Department, Kristen was asked for recommendations from the community to prioritize clearing of curb cuts. No decision has been made on snow removal from community.

We can get feedback from the community at May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Public Works have data base that supply the information on city owned streets and curb cuts that says there are 19,000 curb cuts in the city of Boston. ISD will enforce and check to see if the curb cuts are cleared.

John K. stated that the Advisory Board will continue to work with the M.B.T.A., D.C.R. and the state as far as snow removal, since Kristen's role is focused on City entities.

Carl offered to assist in the process of revising emergency preparedness system on city website set up by working with the Mass Commission for the Blind. Kristen would like to have a form set up for voluntary registration of people with disabilities for emergency preparedness. Heather recommends modifying the city emergency kits so that it will be equipped with necessary tool of information for all households.

Chair's Report: John K. summarized his written report.

Boston transportation is interested in a pilot mapping project for sidewalks, with layers indicating slopes, curb cut information, etc. Boston University already has an accessibility layer for its campus map, Kristen M. and John K. will follow up with BU.

Carl R. suggested inclusion of audible walk signals, which were included in the BU map. Suzanne said that the U Mass falls study is using GIS software, she will follow up regarding availability.

Kristen will meet with the City's DoIt team about possibly using such software on the city website.

Spaulding Hospital, in a presentation on April 25, asked the commission to approve the use of pavers for the sidewalk in the

public right-of-way for its new hospital in Charlestown. After a discussion about the importance of concrete sidewalks, Carl R. made a motion, Janice W. seconded, and the board unanimously voted to reject the paver proposal.

John reported on the meeting with the MBTA about wayfinding signage, which included a lot of discussion about signage color for people with low vision and color blindness. The MBTA is now interested in collecting short-term signage suggestions.

General Manager Richard Davey of the M.B.T.A. will be at the next commission meeting, John will submit questions before the meeting

John also gave updates about a meeting at BCIL regarding the housing bill submitted by Citizens Housing and Planning Association, a variance application submitted by Wentworth Institute, and upcoming lectures on disability.

In an effort to enable easier sharing of variance applications within Boston, John spoke to the AAB about possibly requiring electronic submission of variances rather than hard copies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00p.m.