

## MAYOR'S COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**Piedmont Room Boston City Hall**

**June 13, 2012  
5:30p.m. -7:30 p.m.**

### **AGENDA**

- Introductions
- Approval of March Minutes
- Commissioner's report: Kristen McCosh
- Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich
- Chair's Report: Carl Richardson
- Proposal To Read Minutes Every Meeting
- Commitment of Membership
- Membership Composition
- Direction of Committee
- Discussion of when to have election
- AAB Working Group
- Legislative Priorities
- Public Input
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

**Minutes for Wednesday, June 13th, 2012  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Piemonte Room Boston City Hall 5:30-7:30PM**

**Present:**

(CR) Carl Richardson, Acting-chair  
(JWinske) John Winske  
(HW) Heather Watkins  
(SL) Suzanne Leveille  
(JWard) Janice Ward

**Staff Present:**

(KM) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner  
(KA) Kathryn Aldrich

**Absent:**

(EB) Eileen Brewster  
(DE) David Estrada  
(AB) Arnold Berry

**April Meeting Minutes:** Change line 7 to read "cab"  
Minutes approved by board.

**March Meeting Minutes:** Minutes approved by board.

**May Meeting Minutes:** Minutes approved by board.

**Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

Note: Attached to the Meeting Minutes is the full attendance record for each Board member. Moving forward there is one vacancy to fill, and there will be two members that will not have their terms renewed. Invitations to interview were sent out; resumes will be presented to the Board in July.

City Hall Accessible Route: Phase 1 is almost complete. There is discussion over portion of Phase 3 as to where to end the path at the handicap ramp or extend to the stairs. BSC Group has provided four options for review. Option 1, extends beyond the ramp, but pulls the path away from the vertical element to allow for 3 feet of brick. Option 2, extends beyond the ramp, but is not pulled out. Option 3 is all asphalt. Option 4 is to end the path at the ramp and have all brick between the ramp and the stairs. Questions: Is the railing compliant? Will there be signage directing people to the hidden ramp? After review of all options and discussion of pros and cons, the Board voted to recommend Option 1.

Historical District and Curb Cuts: Next meeting Tuesday, June 19 at 5:30 in room 708

MBTA Accessibility: Had meeting with Mike Lambert to discuss implementing taxi cabs instead of and in addition to MBTA vehicles for The Ride. MBTA has a grant to purchase more fully accessible vehicles (vans). The MBTA wants to put together a focus group to review criteria for the vehicles and system in place, such as pricing. KM is pushing for standardized accessibility options from an approved vendor in order to insure quality results. Public Comment: James White noted that all accessible cabs need to have drivers that have had accessibility training.

ADA Day Celebration July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Theme is “All Access to City Hall”. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the City Hall Accessible Route, distribution of access guide brochure for City Hall Way-finding and Thomas Hopkins of the MAAB has been asked to be the key note speaker. There will be hot dogs, t-shirts, entertainment and information resources at the event. Board recommends contacting taxi cab vendors about new handicap drop-off location, encouraging people to come to meet their City Councilors, and having voter registration available.

The two new positions for staff will be posted on July 1<sup>st</sup>: Deputy Commissioner and Advocacy Specialist.

**Chair’s Report: Carl Richardson** (Acting Chair)  
Attended Historical District Sidewalk meetings.

**Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich**

Rooftop Agriculture and Urban Farming Initiative – Representing the Disability Commission by working with the Boston Redevelopment Authority on rules and regulations for accessible design to be integrated into urban farms.

City Hall Plaza Accessible Route – There is additional work taking place to remove the broken granite banding, will be replaced with brick. Ribbon cutting will be on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

City Hall Access Guide – working on a brochure for way-finding to and through City Hall to be presented at ADA Day.

Current projects in the works: Yawkey Way Extension, MBTA Government Center Station, and MBTA Key bus routes to review.

AAB – Tuesday Meetings at 3:00pm in Room 967 to review all applications for variances.

**Proposal to Read Minutes:** Rejected. Circulate a minimum of three days prior to meeting.

**Commitment of Membership:** Ultimate goal is to create a strong committee that will have commitment and attendance. Some positions are about to expire, one is vacant.

**Direction of Board:** The goal of the Board should be to expand issues beyond just access, deal with deaf and hard of hearing, policy, etc. There needs to be more programmatic, advocacy and compliance to work closely with the Commission. A suggestion of starting Monday Meetings again will happen in the fall with new members. Suggestions were made about looking into more recreating and adaptive activity programs, such as the Tobin Gym and Spaulding.

**Legislative Priorities:** After July, there will be an opportunity to work on getting bills written for next January. Thought is to focus on remote participation for Disability Commissions.

**Election:** There needs to be clarity of status among current members, and new members need to be appointed.

**Public Input:** James White of ACT, wanted to attend in order to promote and coordinate access efforts going on with the MBTA.

**Old Business:** Board members need to send in bios for the website. CR was recognized by the Carol House for the Blind as an employee of the year. Directory at all entrances of the State House was requested.

**New Business:** Suggestion for an Accessibility Audit for City Hall, such as amplification systems and assisted listening devices, counter heights, access to areas such as excise tax, etc.

Adjourned at 7:05pm.