

MAYOR'S COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**Boston City Hall
Piemonte Room, 5th Floor
August 8, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

Introductions

Approval of June 13 minutes

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich

Acting Chair's Report: Carl Richardson

Presentation on Assisted Suicide by Second Thoughts, with Director John Kelly

Update on sidewalk/curb cuts meeting with historic neighborhoods

Transportation Update

Update on filling empty commission seats

Old Business:

New Business

Public Input

Next Meeting Date – September 12, 2012

Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, August 8th, 2012

5th 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

June Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved by board.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

A meeting was held in the month of July, but not quorum was present so no minutes were taken.

ADA Day on July 26th had 400 people in attendance. The layout this year was much better than last, accompanied by the tent provided by Atent for Rent. The Mayor was very pleased with the turnout and the success of the event. The Mayor would like to see a bigger tent next year for more to attend. The planning and coordination will begin much earlier next year. The acoustics were the only real complaint.

The three (3) board vacancies will have updates in the mail regarding the interviews that have taken place with the candidates. The candidates are all strong and all have self-interest projects to work on.

Internships with Mass Rehab, ten (10) in City Hall, of which two (2) are in the Disability Office doing research projects for a future walking tour to be developed and another two (2) others are surveying handicap parking spaces in the downtown area. A possible handicap parking space application was suggested that would feature real time access routes and spaces available. The City is moving for a digital age in Boston, call for input from agencies and from the board.

Chair's Report: Carl Richardson (Acting Chair)

AAB Variance Review sub-committee has been meeting every Tuesday and is going well, open to having other board members join.

On August 1st met with Thomas Hopkins of the AAB to discuss reasonable accommodations. The AAB is looking to make changes, but not likely anytime soon. John Winske also attended the meeting. It was discouraging to find the AAB is not as forward thinking as one would hope. It would be great is the Disability Commission could start making the Boston variance requests available online. There is potential for the variance to post to our website, then all permits for work of the building in question to

be associated. It would be a great model for the AAB and great resource for the City. KM and KA are to reach out to the IT department.

Met with Hackney group to look at pay fare system so that the blind can turn on and pay cab fare. Hackney is moving forward and has installed in third of cab force.

Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich

The sub-committee is meeting every other week to review AAB applications for variance. The upcoming hearings to attend are:

September 24th @ 3:00pm – 299-301 Newbury Street

October 29th @ 2:00pm – First Parish Church

November 19th @ 11:00am – Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum New Building

Second Thoughts Presentation: John Kelly

See attached handouts.

Old Business:

Curb Cut meetings with historical neighborhood association groups have a meeting coming up. Concern was raised about pale yellow against lighter concrete. KM noted that PWD confirms that light concrete will not stay light for long. As there has been significant opposition from historical neighborhood associations there will be one more meeting to attempt to come to decision. Landmark Commission supports pale yellow with dark concrete. All are encouraged to attend.

Transportation has 3 vans with lifts to serve disabled under age 60. Mayor is receptive to the Senior Shuttle for medical trips. MBTA is talking about adding accessible cabs. KM will add information to the website.

New Business:

Commissioner McCosh's letter will be published in the South End News.

http://www.mysouthend.com/index.php?ch=opinion&sc=guest_opinion&sc2=news&sc3=&id=136052

Adjourned.