

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Piemonte Room, 5th Floor

December 12, 2012

5:30-7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes – *October, 2012*
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Chair's Report – *Carl Richardson*
- Architectural Access Update – *Kathryn Aldrich*
- Introduction of New Staff – *Jesse Holm*
- Historic Neighborhoods Sidewalk / Curb Cut Update
- Remote Participation
- Sidewalk Complaint
- Set Meeting Dates, Goals and Priorities for 2013
- Set Date for Election of Officers for Commission
- Old Business
- New Business
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, December 12th, 2012
5th Floor Piemonte Room Boston City Hall 5:30-7:30PM

Present:	Staff Present:
(CR) Carl Richardson (AS) Allegra Stout (BR) Ben Roux (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winske (RN) Raine Newman (SL) Suzanne Leveille	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KA) Kathryn Aldrich (JH) Jesse Holm
Not Present: (AB) Arnold Berry (PH) Paulette Houston	
Guest: No Guest Present	

October Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved by board.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC gave update on CPWD office staff. JH is replacing Juanita Mincey (JM) in the Disability Program Specialist Position. JH will be in charge of the Disabled Parking Space Program (DPS) for the City of Boston. DPS is facilitated between the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and CPWD. The DPS Program installs DPS signs in Residential neighborhoods.

KMC gave an update on collaboration with BCIL and GBLS on accessibility at BMC. KA is reviewing survey of facilities and will make recommendations to the group.

KMC briefly described the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Initiative in the City Of Boston (COB) and stated that the free financial counseling and tax credit information is provided by the EITC. Maria Cabrera, who facilitates the Disability Working Group within the EITC Initiative, will be present at the January 2013 Disability Commission meeting.

KMC updated Commission on accessible pathways in Boston's historic districts, stating that three out of four neighborhood Commissions agreed to red tactile strips and concrete. Back Bay, South End, and Bay Village all voted up, while Beacon Hill voted down because they requested that granite be used in the project.

KMC stated that the CPWD has begun a monthly film series, in collaboration with the Cambridge Commission for People with Disabilities. Children of a Lessor God will be shown Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 806 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square from 2-5pm.

KMC discussed the Commission's work with the Boston Police Department (BPD) Hackney Unit. There are several initiatives currently underway. One exciting initiative is the new software that has been installed in 75% of cabs that provides audio accessibility for people who are blind / low vision. Another initiative is with a company called HAILO that has developed an app for routing WAV vehicles. The City currently has 100 WAV accessible cabs.

Chair's Report: Carl Richardson

CR gave an update on the AAB Hearing about Isabella Steward Gardner construction project. The museum installed a lift in new construction instead of an elevator. The AAB asked the museum architects to look into price of a LULA and report back to them. The Board said they must install signage and that the lift be unlocked life at all times.

CR provided an update on issue of remote participation for people with disabilities. CR does not believe the Open Meeting Law (OML) will be easily revised. Instead, we have been exploring revisions to 8J, the law establishing Disability Commissions. MOD has expressed concerns about opening up 8J for revisions. CR reiterates that for now the expectation is that Commissioner members attend each monthly meeting in person.

CR distributed photos of temporary curb ramps that PWD installed in a residential neighborhood, submitted to him by the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD). CR requested that CPWD follow up with PWD and give an update at next month's meeting.

Kathryn Aldrich: Architectural Access Update:

KA discussed the current AAB Hearing Schedule; Charles Playhouse Variance, Dec 17th @11:00am at One Ashburton Place and Arlington Street Church, Feb 11th @2:00pm at One Ashburton Place.

KA mentioned the current AAB Variance Applications being reviewed; Longwood Center Project, 99 Kneeland Street, 20 Charles Gate West, 133 Salem Street, 85 W. Newton Street and New England Aquarium.

KA mentioned that the Boston Complete Street Guidelines is to be adopted into an Executive Order in the coming year. KA met with PIC to review policies currently in practice and moving forward will maximize the concrete pedestrian right of way in the path of travel. KA also stated that Complete Street Guidelines are in time for development in the Seaport District and will be an opportunity to make accessibility a design priority.

Old Business/New Business:

CR requests that 2013 dates are established and e-mailed to the Disability Commission. Disability Commission agrees to continue Commission meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. CR requests that Commission members begin to think about goals and/or priorities for 2013.

HW says she'd like the Disability Commission to do more community access work, such as access to local stores.

SL would like to do more with information access; she'd like to see more on the CPWD website. SL would like to focus more on youth with disabilities.

BR suggested coming up with a strategy for setting goals/priorities for the New Year, such as tracking tasks that are in progress, completed, and ongoing.

SL suggested we nominate members for each open Commission position during the January 9, 2013 meeting.

Public Input:

No public input.

Adjourned.