

## **Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

### **Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 23 , 2011**

Present: Arnold Berry, Eileen Brewster, John Kelly, Suzanne Leveille, Carl Richardson, and Janice Ward. Conference Call: David Estrada. Absent: Heather Watkins, John Winske.

Public: Kevin Barrett, Dusya Lyubovskaya, Grey Vandemark, Chris Suffle

Meeting commenced at 5:15 pm.

Minutes from February 9 meeting (rescheduled from January): Carl R. moved to accept, Janice W. seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen M said that snow removal has been the biggest issue this winter, and has been working with the City Law Department, Public Works, Inspectional Services, and Neighborhood Services to generate a plan for next winter. Officials definitely understood the extent of the problems and committed to making next year better. It was agreed that Inspectional Services will enforce abutter responsibility for curb cuts, and it was urged that the disability community generate priority areas, as the city lacks the resources to make sure everything is clear.

You are Kristen met with the the City DoIT team, which is coordinating a computer apps project for high school students, and were receptive to including apps for disabled students. Carl stressed that Section 508 on electronic access would apply.

Chair's Report: John Kelly reported working with the Fenway Garden Society concerning the renovation of the old "Special-Needs Garden", and the move to rename it in honor of the garden plot's founders, Anne and Domingo Fernandes. New planting tables have been installed, and a stone dust path is one possibility. Naming possibilities include "The Anne and Domingo Fernandes Memorial Garden for Persons with Disabilities," or, more inclusively, "The Anne and Domingo Fernandes Memorial Accessible Garden." Janice spoke of her personal connection to Anne and Domingo and supported the move.

Carl said the sign should be brailled. He also suggested the possibility of an audio tour for the future, like what the Audubon Society does. John will forward the information to Fenway Garden Society president Mike Mennonno.

Kristen M. and John K. will be meeting with city officials regarding paving materials, and also with Spaulding about its plans.

John K. announced that officers would be elected at the March meeting, when he will also submit a draft of the annual report. He said that audio recordings of commission meetings could not be posted on the web without a transcript for full access.

Janice W. announced a meeting is being held March 4, 2011 from 2 p.m. - 4p.m. regarding air conditioning in apartment buildings. She will propose setting the date to April when the weather can start getting hot. By law apartment buildings must provide heat until June 15, which building managers use as the date to begin air conditioning.

Janice W. suggested that all member of the Commission Board attend meeting so all voices can be heard, then brought a motion that was unanimously adopted for a letter to be sent from the commission on the issue..

Visitors Kevin Barrette and Dusya Lyubovskaya spoke about housing for families which have a member with autism, and would like input from the commission. Grey Vandemark from Emerson College introduced himself as an undergrad student in Disabilities Studies.

Announcements: Deaf and Blind awareness at the State House Lobby on March 9, 2011 time 10 a.m.

ADA Training scheduled for March 11, 2011, 2 PM-4:30 PM

Next Disability Commission Meeting March 23, 2011 5:30 PM-7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes done by Kristen M. and Lakeysha S.