

Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Wednesday, July 28 , 2010

Present: Eileen Brewster, Suzanne Leveille, Janice Ward, Arnold Berry, Carl Richardson, and Heather Watkins. John Kelly planned to participate by phone from California, but assistance from the city never came to set up the call.

A **motion** was unanimously passed to note at the beginning of these minutes that: the commission was not notified ahead of time that no city representative would attend the commission meeting. [Jay Walsh later said that he had told Carl that he would be unable to attend.]

The June minutes were accepted and approved.

Announcement. Carl described the Boston Globe article from Monday, July 26, which reported that ADA coordinator Stephen Spinetto would be retiring in August. Carl wants to make sure that there will be a role for the commission in creation of the job description and the hiring process. That the hiring of a good ADA coordinator could solve a lot of problems facing the commission.

Heather suggested a facebook page. Janice said other commissions also have a regular website. Arnold announced opening at BCIL for director of services.

Central air conditioning in apt buildings. Janice thinks law needs to be revised, given rising temps. It is a state requirement that heat be on from 9/15 – 6/15. Building managers have refused to put on AC until after 6/15, using the heating date as a reason. Suzanne reported state laws in the South do not specify dates. Carl suggested a meeting with members of the state legislature's housing committee, in order to discuss drafting a bill. But with legislature in recess, will take a while. Suzanne reported on the suffering her mother experienced at her assisted living facility in April. He suggested the formation of sub-committee, could meet new committee members in Jan or Feb. Regulations through public health. Janice, Suzanne, and Arnold volunteered for the task force.

HP parking. Carl received emails complaining about lack of enforcement at HP parking spots. Recommend increased enforcement. Eileen mentioned problem of people parking in bus stops – a state law. Carl mentioned how other commissions get funding from HP fines. With income from fines, commission could have a budget. Jay had said that raising the fine decreased tickets written. But even a \$20 increase could bring in substantial money. An increase would also discourage violators. Don't want to keep fines low, which ends up encouraging violations. Janice reported cars blocking curb cuts near neighborhood Shaw's. "I'll just be a minute," they say. Carl got email from woman shopping on a Sunday afternoon who could not find a HP spot. Follow-up with email to Jay about enforcement. Heather suggested inviting Tom Tinlin from BTDA.

Accessible route - John was to report on. Hasn't been funded or approved yet, John reported little action. Must be done by Nov 2011.

ADA celebration. Carl was to speak at ADA celebration, but unable to get on agenda. City was co-sponsor, and Mayor Menino mentioned the commission a number of times, including the commitment to putting an access route across the Plaza. Suzanne worried that it will be wire cut brick, as that is what they have discussed. Commission should not be supporting brick, concern that the access route might lead to ongoing replacement of brick with brick. Asphalt and concrete had been ruled out, cement pavers as some sort of compromise. Carl to put together a list of questions along with the minutes, to get answers from Jay.

Eileen asked about response to our letter to the mayor, people thought the Globe article about Spinetto retiring was the response. There was no formal reply.

MOTION: Suzanne moved the commission be involved in writing up the job description and having a role in the hiring process, past unanimously.

Self-Evaluation City requirement for self evaluation (which would enable a transition plan), but no information available on whether the city has started. Include this in the questions.

MOTION Motion passed unanimously that notice be put at the top of the minutes regarding lack of city attendance without notice. Concern expressed that Jay has often been present for only a portion of the meeting. Commission used to get messages from secretary about who would be attending, but not any more.

Membership: 2 open positions, 3 up for renewal. Should be able to renew. Advertising to be done by city, members encouraged to recommend candidates. Ask to send letter out to all disability organizations. Check by laws for process. Carl had emailed Jay that advertising should begin after this meeting.

Meet and Greet: John had suggested a reception for the committee to meet the community, to be held at City Hall, perhaps in September or the fall.

Minutes recorded by Carl Richardson, written up by John Kelly