

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

**JANUARY 11, 2012
5:30-7:30 PM**

BRA Board Room, 9th Floor, Boston City Hall

Introductions

Approval of December 14 minutes

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Chair's Report: John Kelly

New Business

Old Business

Public Input

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

Wednesday, January 11, 2011

BRA Board Room 933, 9th Floor Boston City Hall 5:30-7:30PM

Present:

(JK) John Kelly, Chair
(CR) Carl Richardson, Vice-chair
(AB) Arnold Berry
(HW) Heather Watkins

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

(EB) Eileen Brewster
(DE) David Estrada
(SL) Suzanne Leveille
(JWard) Janice Ward
(JWinske) John Winske

John Kelly convened the meeting at 5:38PM.

Minutes were reviewed for December 14, 2011, but a quorum was not present for approval. JK requested follow up regarding the way-finding plan for Copley Place, review of the proposed signage package, and investigation of whether or not Dartmouth Street will be shut down during construction.

Initial discussion of City Hall Emergency way-finding, KM suggested KA create an Access Guide to City Hall noting Accessibility Features and recommendations to Property Management.

Commissioner's Report – Kristen McCosh

The Commission budget is in the works of going through review with the budget specialist. KM is looking to the board for suggestions regarding future programs and event ideas as the 2011 events were successful. CR suggested brochures. HW suggested spring formal community meetings to create stronger alliances with the neighborhoods. KM noted that this could be done by hosting meetings in different neighborhoods and inviting City Councilors. CR also suggested an ADA coordination conference to include all the different towns. KM recommended continuing the special Monday Meetings and CR encouraged posting the special meetings to get more people in attendance.

KM requested ideas for the following areas: employment, benefit analysis, and counseling. CR suggested ADA liaisons in the other agencies similar to all State employees having to take mandatory ADA training (online). KM is working on an executive order for the Mayor regarding employee training. HW asked if City Hall has an ADA coordinator. KM is the ADA coordinator for City Hall, but BRA, Public Health, Police, Etc. do not fall under the same category and therefore have their own ADA coordinators. KM has outlined the Commission to be focused on these areas: compliance, advocacy and services. AB attended a City Councilor meeting and asked about compliance in the neighborhoods. HW commented that there was a big meeting last year regarding access issues in the neighborhoods and that is why she wants Roslindale to be the pilot area. KA suggested DATE Night - Disability Advocacy Teaching Event, for the Commission to host a speaker and present a movie related to disabilities. CR offered help finding movies. JK said that Cambridge does something similar and perhaps Boston could coordinate with Cambridge. JK suggested considering teenagers for summer jobs. KM attended the Cabinet meeting and met with the woman who runs HOPE Line, which is the only way for teenagers to get a job through the City. KM looked into having two kids with disabilities work in the office this summer. KM would also love to do more for employment training.

KM updated that she received an email from Leo Murphy regarding the Accessible Path at City Hall. The initial estimate was significantly over budget and the plans will be revised

to scale back on the costs. KM and KA will meet with Leo on Friday to review the changes. JK commented that it is unfortunate that the settlement will have to pay for the colored asphalt which is increasing the price so significantly. KM noted that auxiliary funds should come from Capital Projects.

Discussion:

Open Meeting Law: Question regarding remote participation came up and the response was that the open meeting has to be approved by the Mayor. The Law states that it must be approved by body involved. JK noted that the Commission will have difficulty with quorums. CR pointed out that Amy Nable, Division of Open Government Director, would be able to discuss the issues at the January 30th Monday Meeting regarding the Open Meeting Law. CR also commented that it will be great to meet with a person in charge of the open meeting laws as a town down the Cape was having issues due to appropriate accommodations.

AB asked when the jobs for youth begin. KM said around July 1st.

Chairs Report: John Kelly

JK attended a meeting about dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid. It was suggested that many people are being thrown off of Medicaid.

JK spoke to Richard Davie about the Copley Place Expansion Project and how Copley Place should make it up to Tent City by fixing the other side of the street and involving Tent City in the sidewalk design. [Regarding past maintenance negligence by Copley Place]

JK spoke to Janice Ward about the air conditioning issue and was unhappy with the dates selected. JK requested KM follow-up on initiating further meetings to continue the discussion.

January 23rd is the AAB Hearing for the Mass. Ave delineation project.

January 30th is the Monday Meeting with individuals from Office of the Attorney General

On December 12th, 2011 the State established the Fenway Alliance as the head of the Fenway Cultural District, but included the provision that all paths of travel must be “humane” which does give leverage for approaching the State with future issues.

Second Thoughts will be on NE Public Radio 88.5FM (WFCR)

Guests for the Monday Meetings need to be scheduled. Jon Rizzata, of MassDot, wants to work with people. CR said it would be helpful to have him talk to the Commission about what he is doing. HW is interested in getting Steven Gildman involved. CR is willing to

host Ron Marlow, Admin & Finance for the State, responsible for getting things done regarding accessibility. Public Works and Parks Commissioners were also suggested.

Discussion

HW filed a complaint with a doctor's office (Mt. Sinai) regarding a non-compliant examine room with attached ADA outline for accessible healthcare.

JK mentioned it would be great to have a newsletter, maybe by disabled college students. CR suggested newsletter could include letter from Chair and suggested either monthly or quarterly newsletters.

HW has started a blog "Overcoming Disabilities" for media reform. The blog focuses on two angles, overcoming disability and pity. The blog can be found at :

<http://www.thankodi.com/category/all-blog-posts/overcoming-disabilities/>

JK adjourned the meeting at 7:26pm