

MAYOR'S COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

AGENDA
May 23, 2012,

Piedmont Room Boston City Hall
5:30p.m. -7:30 p.m.

- Introductions
- Approval of March Minutes
- Commissioner's report: Kristen McCosh
- Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich
- Chair's Report: Carl Richardson
- Proposal To Read Minutes Every Meeting
- Commitment of Membership
- Membership Composition
- Direction of Committee
- Discussion of when to have election
- AAB Working Group
- Legislative Priorities
- Public Input
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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

Present:

(CR) Carl Richardson, Acting-chair
(JWinske) John Winske
(HW) Heather Watkins

Absent:

(EB) Eileen Brewster
(DE) David Estrada
(JWard) Janice Ward
(AB) Arnold Berry

Staff Present:

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

Note: No voting took place. Quorum was not present.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

Future focus will be on Taxi Cab accessibility; training of drivers, vehicle modifications, access, availability, and drivers stopping to pick disabled passengers. NYC has a unified fleet of taxi cabs, as well as unified modifications through a preferred contract source. Boston does not have a unified fleet, nor does it have one certified known modification contract. Meetings have taken place with the Hackney group, with review of the Nissan accessible vehicle that is being adopted by NYC. Boston needs an upgraded fleet, certified modifications and a unified policy across the board. Taxi cabs in Boston are only certified for a term of 6-7 years, so the potential to increase the accessibility is in the near future. There is also potential to investigate increasing the number of accessible medallions in the city, but the first step is meeting with the Hackney group.

Disability News and Views TV show has started again. Carl Richardson and Kim Charleston were just interviewed. John Kelly will be the next guest.

The Community Forum was held on May 17th. With approximately 50 attendees it was a great turn-out and very successful. The ideas that came from the forum discussion will be organized and presented to the board. A Fall Forum was suggested to possibly discuss what entities are responsible for addressing issues raised. There is a need to address the MBTA issues, currently brainstorming options especially for The Ride.

The City Hall Accessible Route is under construction and making progress. The kick-off will be on ADA day on July 26th.

There will be another Curb Cuts and Sidewalk Materials in Historic Districts meeting on Tuesday, May 29th at 5:00pm. Historical District Neighborhood Associations will choose representatives to come up with accessible, visible, sustainable and smooth curb cuts and tactile warnings to present to the Disability Community.

Approval has been granted for two new positions; Deputy Commissioner and an advocacy role.

Architectural Access Update: Kathryn Aldrich

Rooftop Agriculture and Urban Farming Initiative – Representing the Disability Commission by working with the Boston Redevelopment Authority on rules and regulations for accessible design to be integrated into urban farms.

City Hall Plaza Accessible Route – Construction on Phase One is underway and making progress. Some delays are being experienced due to unforeseen circumstances.

Preservation for People: Innovations in Multimodal Transportation in Historic Settings Topical Discussion Meetings – Attending a series of 5 group meetings to discuss historical bridges, parks, facilities and roadways and how they are accessible now and how to make them accessible and respect history.

ABX Access Simulation (The new Build Boston) – Initial meeting to discuss building a simulation set in an effort to illustrate to designers, builders and contractors compliancy ideals and issues.

MBTA New Government Center Station – Attending bi-weekly meetings to review and discuss material selections, design and accessible access routes.

East Boston Central Square – design updates and review that now incorporate a 5’ concrete path of travel through the park that was proposed as small brick size pavers.

Berklee College – Coordinated with the Director of Public Safety at Berklee and Public Works to address sidewalk improvement needs.

Chair’s Report: Carl Richardson (Acting Chair)

There is a bill (S1246) currently in the State House that will strengthen the AAB requirements, parking, housing, etc. It is in the Ways and Means process at the State House, but has a very good chance of passing.

Personal Note: Will be honored with the 2012 Employee of the Year Award from The Carroll Society on June 7th at 3:00pm at the Carroll Center for the Blind. All are welcome to attend.

The Cultural Art Institutions get together to discuss ADA issues, will send link to event.

Previous proposal to read the meeting minutes at every meeting; will hold until quorum is present.

Commitment of membership needs to be reviewed to better address attendance at meetings.

Areas to work on in the future: access, policy changes, forums, more programmatic changes.

Election will be held when quorum is present.

AAB variance sub-committee needs to meet with every other week to review applications in order to have a greater influence on access. To start, CR will meet with KA and KM. Boston Center for Independent Living and Community Access Group review the variances, possibility of working together with them to review cases.

Legislative priority is to further investigate remote participation laws and how to exempt the Disability Commission from open meeting laws.

New Business:

HW noted LinkedIn has great resources for disability groups and information about current events taking place.