



## City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

### Minutes Commission for Citizens with Disabilities January 17, 2019

#### **Members Present**

Susan Bewsher  
Melissa Branco  
Linda Carreiro  
Pam Cole  
Dennis DeMarinis  
Herb "Sonny" Eddleston  
Marsha Fernandes

#### **Others in Attendance**

BG Shanklin, Architect  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

#### **Members Excused**

Jaunna Adesso

**Dennis DeMarinis**, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 6:31 PM.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Susan Bewsher made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Linda Carreiro. The motion carried.

#### **Old Business**

##### • **Polling Places**

Mr. Shanklin met with Rep. Tony Cabral, Manny DeBrito and Al Oliveira to review Congdon's suitability as a polling place in place of the Moose Lodge. Mr. Shanklin shared his opinion that there is no way to make the building accessible in the time period between now and the September primary/November election. Mr. Shanklin suggested temporary alternatives such as trailers or tents with port-a-johns.

#### **Chairperson's Report**

Mr. DeMarinis may be unable to attend meetings in March and April due to a medical situation.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Cynthia Wallquist reported that:

- 33 disabled homeowners have been enrolled in the Clear Path Snow Removal Program; 2 additional will be added. So far, there has been no need for the crew to go out.

- Special Needs exercise classes continued to be held @ Hazelwood due to repairs at Buttonwood

Pam Cole moved to accept the Executive Director's report; seconded by Melissa Branco. Motion carried.

### **Architect's Report**

BG Shanklin presented a sample of his transition plan format, which included address, assessed values, a picture or map, general comments, and a detailed listing of accessibility deficiencies by area. Once his assessments are completed, he plans to group buildings by type and compile into a comprehensive report.

With regard to a complaint about Riccardi's parking spaces, Mr. Shanklin advised that the proprietor needs to re-mark the spaces outside. Mr. Shanklin gave additional feedback on signage changes made by Riccardi's after a previous complaint. Despite these changes, the height of the sign is incorrect and the site still needs an additional handicap parking space close to the door.

Mr. Shanklin provided an update on 95 W Rodney French Blvd, which had their elevator variance approved. The site still has some issues with handicapped parking and accessibility.

The Hazelwood Park plan was reviewed and approved by the Massachusetts Office on Disability. Mr. Shanklin met with DFFM and Mark Champagne, who expressed an interest in doing the necessary work in-house which should provide cost savings.

Mr. Shanklin was recently added to the New Bedford Resiliency Committee which focuses on preparedness for natural disasters and sea level rise. He attended an Age-Friendly City meeting, which focused on resting places needed in public spaces throughout the city.

Lastly, Mr. Shanklin noted that Mary Rapoza is reapplying for funds for the Buttonwood Park Senior Center parking lot since funds were not awarded during the last CPA funding round. Similarly, issues with the Hazelwood parking lot have not been rectified. Lighting at both locations is insufficient.

Marsha Fernandes made motion to accept the Architect's Report, seconded by Joshua Amaral. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

Mr. DeMarinis read a communication from James Saucedo from the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless regarding support of pending legislative action regarding rent arrearage assistance for low income households. Mr. Saucedo believes that a disproportionate number of affected households are individuals with disabilities and that the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities should join in supporting their effort. Mr. Amaral moved for the CCWD to support the legislation, seconded by Ms. Fernandes. The motion carried.

### **Other Business**

Mr. DeMarinis read into the record Mr. Amaral's letter of resignation, effective upon the appointment of a successor and accepted it "with regret".

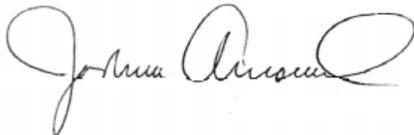
### **Adjourn**

Ms. Melissa Branco moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bewsher. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

### **Announcements**

- The next meeting will be Thursday, February 21.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Amaral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Joshua Amaral  
Acting Clerk