



## *Commission for Citizens with Disabilities*

November 4, 2013 – 6:45 PM - **Minutes**

City Hall – Ashley Room

**\*\*View Agenda\*\***

### **Members Present**

Kim Bettencourt  
Martha Bouchard  
Rev. Pam Cole  
Marsha Fernandes  
Gloria Hill  
Brooke Miller  
John Tyson

### **Members Excused**

Dennis DeMarinis

### **Others in Attendance:**

Eric Cohen, Solicitor's Office  
Brenda Floyd, Community Connection Health Care  
BG Shanklin, Architect  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

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The meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities was called to order @ 6:45 PM by Kim Bettencourt, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Brooke Miller moved to accept the September 9, 2013 minutes; Martha Bouchard seconded. Motion carried.

### **Architect's Report**

BG Shanklin spoke about the School Department's submission to the MSBA for facilities improvements. Included in the request is approximately \$250,000 for ADA-related issues that include elevator and bathroom accessibility and ramps. He is also working with Ken Blanchard on a review of the New Bedford Police Department "bookings" entrance for ADA compliance.

Martha moved to accept BG's report; Brooke seconded. Motion carried.

### **Guest Presentation**

Brenda Floyd, Outreach Worker for Community Connection Health Care, spoke about their program. Headquartered in Quincy, they are a Group Adult Foster Care program that provides Home Health Aide services for eligible seniors and adults with disabilities (live in GAFC approved housing -- 4+ units in a complex -- and have Mass Health Standard Coverage). They provide personal care services, general assistance with errands and light cleaning. Applicants must be 22+ years of age.

### **New Business**

- Eric Cohen discussed the State's draft legislation of remote access to meetings.

- Pam Cole asked BG to look at access to Union Baptist Church.

### **Old Business**

The wheelchair safety lights program is on hold pending a meeting with the City Council's attorney, Councillor Martins and Captain Cordeiro due to confusion in sections of the ordinance regarding requirements and enforcement.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Kim Bettencourt spoke about the "unveiling" of the Braille/English welcome sign at the entrance to the sensory garden at Buttonwood Park. The boys from Saturday Academy helped raise funds for the sign, along with the Lions Club and other donors. The Mayor "did the honors" and the event was covered by the Standard Times.

Kim met with the staff from Coastline Elderly Services Foster Grandparents Program. Coastline is interested in including kids with disabilities to receive 15 hours of "grand parenting" per week.

Brooke moved to accept the Chair's report; John Tyson seconded. Motion carried.

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

Cynthia Wallquist reported that 38 applications for Clear Path snow removal have been approved to date. The deadline to provide all medical documentation is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two are pending. Based on the RFP that was issued, PAACA submitted a proposal to serve 30 homes per storm with room for up to 5 "emergencies" per storm. Brooke moved to contract with PAACA in an amount not to exceed \$15,000; John seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

The Commission discussed the meals program and home delivery and decided to wait until spring to see if there are funds in the budget to do a 3-month program.

Brooke moved to accept the Executive Director's report; John seconded. Motion carried.

### **Announcements**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2013.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by John and seconded by Martha. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Miller  
Secretary