



# *Commission for Citizens with Disabilities*

March 11, 2015 – 6:40 PM – **Minutes**  
133 William Street, City Hall, Ashley Room

## **Members Present**

Josh Amaral  
Kim Bettencourt  
Martha Bouchard  
Dennis DeMarinis  
Marsha Fernandes  
Gloria Hill  
Brooke Miller  
John Tyson

## **Members Absent**

## **Members Excused**

Rev. Pam Cole

## **Others in Attendance:**

John Lobo, Community Services  
Kristina da Fonseca, Southcoast Fair Housing, Inc.  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

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The meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities was called to order @ 6:40 PM by Kim Bettencourt, Chair.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Martha Bouchard moved to accept the January 14, 2015 minutes; seconded. Brooke Miller seconded. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

John Lobo brought a sample trash barrel that had rough adhesive on the handle to demonstrate a possible solution for the blind/visually impaired to differentiate recycle vs. trash barrels. Martha Bouchard tried it and asked that the “tape” be on the front and back so she can tell the difference regardless of how she approached the barrel.

## **Guest Presentation**

Kristina da Fonseca, Executive Director of Southcoast Fair Housing, Inc., presented information on her agency and described which cases she can take. She distributed materials on housing rights for specific populations, including “Housing Rights for People with Disabilities”.

## **Architect's Report**

BG Shanklin was away; his report outlining activities Jan. 14 - March 11, 2015 was distributed.

## **Chairperson's Report**

Kim Bettencourt reported that elevator accessibility work had begun on the elevator @ NBHS.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Cynthia Wallquist reported that:

- The FEMA money still hasn't been received to replace the swings.
- The harsh winter put a strain on the Clear Path Program budget. The budget allowed for 5 visits by the crews; to date they have gone to each home at least 8 times (blizzards count as 2 or 3 visits).

Marsha Fernandes moved to accept the Executive Director's report; Dennis DeMarinis seconded. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

The Commission's funding for FY16 will be cut in half (approx. \$20,000) due to the lag in handicapped parking revenues caused, in part, by the winter conditions. The Commission will be able to support architectural services and approximately one-third to one-half of the homes enrolled in the FY15 Clear Path Program.

## **Old Business (continued)**

The wheelchair lights ordinance amendment was ordained. The cable show will run in the spring and the Commission will purchase additional lights and flags

## **Announcements**

The meeting schedule for the remainder of FY15 is:

- Monday, April 13 (6:30 PM)
- Wednesday, May 13 (6:15 PM)
- Monday, June 29 (6:00 PM)

## **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Gloria Hill and seconded by John Tyson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Miller  
Secretary