



# *Commission for Citizens with Disabilities*

June 29, 2015 – 6:05 PM – **Minutes**  
133 William Street, City Hall, Ashley Room

## **Members Present**

Josh Amaral  
Kim Bettencourt  
Martha Bouchard  
Rev. Pam Cole  
Dennis DeMarinis  
Marsha Fernandes  
John Tyson

## **Members Excused**

Gloria Hill  
Brooke Miller

## **Others in Attendance**

Kristine Arsneault (Mayor's Office)  
Elizabeth L. Myska, JD  
Jack Peacock  
BG Shanklin, Architect  
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

im Bettencourt, Chair, called the meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities to order @ 6:05 PM. Kim made introductions of all commissioners as well as guests.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Martha Bouchard moved to accept the May 13, 2015 minutes; seconded by Dennis DeMarinis. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

### Election of Officers

Kim read the Slate of Officers for the 2015-2016 year.

- Kim Bettencourt, Chair
- Martha Bouchard, Vice Chair
- Dennis DeMarinis, Jr., Secretary
- John Tyson, Treasurer

Pam Cole moved to accept the Slate of Officers as read; seconded by Martha Bouchard

## **FY 16 meeting schedule**

The Commission will meet monthly on Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Ashley Room.

## **Guests**

Atty. Liz Myska from the Worcester Commission for Citizens with Disabilities attended our meeting to advise that we have many great opportunities for the differently-abled community, but we should do a better job about advertising these opportunities. Ms. Myska then introduced Jack Peacock from Peacock Communications who presented information about his product called Launch Guide for venues to buy and install in New Bedford. Mr. Peacock also spoke about the "DUCK" (Dennis United & Connect Konference) on Sept. 12 in Dennis.

## **Chairperson's Report**

- Kim reported that the Gomes Playground is moving ahead and it looks like Senator Montigny will make a sizeable contribution through the State.
- She & Al Oliviera will begin visiting other schools in New Bedford to create a list of items that need to be fixed, upgraded or installed. Kim asked if BG would be willing to join in on the walkthroughs.
- Kim has the phone number for Elizabeth's Rooming House and will call to see if we can work out a solution for parking at Union Baptist.
- Kim did not have an update if the elevator has been completed at NBHS. She did know that they were working on the final punch list.
- The Chair will meet with the Executive Committee over the summer to discuss program planning
- The Commission will meet in August (date TBD)

## **Architect's Report**

BG Shanklin informed the Commission that:

- Pam has given him two more churches to visit.
- Union Baptist will need a minimum of \$25K for projects if they go out to bid. He also explained to them how the wheelchair ramp needs to be laid out.
- He needs revisit Bethel and meet the new minister; he feels that the Elevator is the only way to fix things
- He presented 3 options to the architect for 38 Bethel St. Travessia to achieve compliance

Josh Amaral moved to accept the architect's report; seconded by John Tyson. Motion carried.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Cynthia advised that the Commission needed to approve funding allocations for FY16.

- Architect Services - \$11,000 for approximately 20 hours per month (BG Shanklin) Den DeMarinis moved to accept this budget allocation; seconded by Martha Bouchard. Motion carried.
- Weekly (Monday) Buttonwood Park Exercise program for WorkInc. and other disabled adults run by Larry Bigos - \$1,800.  
Martha Bouchard moved to accept this budget allocation; seconded by Josh Amaral. Motion carried.
- Snow Removal \$3,000 (10 houses/5 storms)
- Approximately \$2000 will be set aside until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and allocated then should there be more of a need for Clear Path/HomeAid projects or other small program(s)

Josh Amaral moved to accept this budget allocation; seconded by Den DeMarinis. Motion carried.

Cynthia also updated the commission on the vandalism at Buttonwood Park.

- We needed to replace the slide. We also received new-coated chains for the swings and 12 sets of mallets.
- No FEMA \$ has been received to compensate for the Hurricane Sandy damage

Martha Bouchard moved to accept the executive director's report; seconded by Dennis DeMarinis. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

- Wheelchair Lights & Flags  
John Lobo installed three more lights and an order of new lights that are easier to install has been placed (sample will be shown at next meeting)

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis DeMarinis and seconded by Martha Bouchard. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis DeMarinis, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis DeMarinis, Jr.  
Secretary-Elect