



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

August 11, 2015 – 6:05 – 8:00 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 Absent

Gloria Hill

Members Excused

Brooke Miller

Others in Attendance

BG Shanklin, Architect
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Director

Kim Bettencourt, Chair, called the meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities to order @ 6:05PM.

Approval of Minutes

Josh Amaral moved to accept the June 29, 2015 minutes; seconded by Martha Bouchard. Motion carried.

New Business

- **ADA 25th Anniversary.** Cynthia advised that Councilman Steven Martins would be recognizing the ADA and the Commission at the August 20th City Council Meeting. All Commissioners have been invited to attend the Council meeting.
- **Remote Participation.** Kim has advised that the Commission meetings can have a quorum if there are at least one member is at City Hall and there are at a minimum of four commissioners on the phone. Josh Amaral made the motion to accept as read and asked for a recorded roll call vote. Martha Bouchard seconded.

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

John Tyson YES

Motion carried 7-0

- **FY16.** Kim and Cynthia shared with the commission that the Executive Committee met and created a schedule of visitors for each meeting for the next year. Currently confirmed are:
September Mass Rehab Commission
November Jeff Dougan
- **Beach Wheelchair.** Commission was updated and shown photos of the Beach Wheelchair donated by SMILES. Owen Costa, a child with disabilities from the Far North End demonstrated how the chair is used @ West Beach. Cynthia advised that there is a need for a ramp to the water's edge. Bids are being collected to get an idea of a cost and how we can assist the Parks Department.
- **Personnel Forms.** All but two commissioners signed and returned their forms.

Chairperson's Report

Kim reported that she and Cynthia attended an MOD training in Boston 8/5. Commissions were asked to check with their respective Treasurer's Office to make sure handicapped parking fines paid on line are coded correctly and credited to the Commission's account.

MOD staff informed the group that revenues from handicapped parking sign violations on private property cannot be credited to municipalities. Staff also informed the audience that only Disabilities Commissions may use remote participation even if that practice had not been adopted by the municipality. Disability Commission members who participate by phone or SKYPE *are* counted as part of a quorum if they are not physically present.

Architect's Report

BG Shanklin advised:

- 38 Bethel Street owner decided that the most convenient solution is for them to use the back door option as one of the "solutions" (not preferred) the Commission presented
- Union Baptist has not returned BG's calls to follow up on accessibility
- Seventh Day Adventist on Elm Street & Cedar Street was flooded by a pipe leak. They are planning a renovation of 8K square feet. They do have a handicapped ramp, but it is not up to code; the doors need to be brought up to code.
- Pulaski playground is falling apart and is not accessible.
- North Baptist Church is working on ramp into the church; the elevator needs to be shut down
- Bethel AME: no response.

BG needs to review Hazelwood, Ashley, Brooklawn and Buttonwood COA Facilities and submit drawings as part of the City's capital needs assessment; he is also revisiting well Hillman Street Bldg. 9 entrance.

He attended Form Zoning Forums held by the City's Planning Department; the plan is to encourage more sidewalks and less parking. Acushnet Ave (Coggeshall vicinity) is one area, Gouillart Square is the second and Downtown is the third. Recommendations are being drawn up and will be shared again.

BG was asked to review the City's Transition Plan that hasn't been updated in recent years. He needs to see what improvements were made, what are outstanding and what the conditions are in city facilities/parks etc. that weren't included in the original plan.

Martha Bouchard moved to accept the Architect's report; seconded by Marsha Fernandes. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Cynthia advised that:

- There is still no playground money from Hurricane Sandy so the swings haven't been replaced. Sections of the slide had to be replaced twice in the past 6 months.
- Four wheelchair lights and flags were installed last month
- Larry Bigos is under contract to provide exercise instruction to Work Inc. clients

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

Old Business

BG will follow up to see the timetable on City Hall's So. Sixth Street Entrance; the door and railings were scheduled to be done early summer 2015.

Announcements

- Per Pam Cole, the Night at the Bay Sox will need SERTA involvement
- BCC's ADA Department representative(s) will be asked to attend one of our meetings

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis DeMarinis and seconded by Martha Bouchard. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis DeMarinis, Jr.
Secretary