



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

July 26, 2016 – 6:10 PM – **Minutes**
133 William Street, City Hall, Ashley Room

Members Present:

Jaunna Adesso
Josh Amaral
Kim Bettencourt
Martha Bouchard
Dennis DeMarinis
Marsha Fernandes

Others in Attendance

Mary Rapoza, Parks & Rec.
BG Shanklin, Architect
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Dir.

Excused

Rev. Pam Cole
Brooke Miller
John Tyson

Dennis DeMarinis, Chair, called the meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities to order @ 6:10 PM.

Minutes

Josh Amaral moved to accept the June 22, 2016 minutes; seconded by Martha Bouchard. Motion carried.

Guest Presentation

Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches, discussed accessibility issues at East and West Beaches:

- The amphibious wheelchair @ West Beach has been used twice. Jaunna Adesso mentioned that they need a mechanical lift to help someone transfer to the floating chair. She also stated that privacy curtains are needed in the bathroom for changing purposes.
- The bathrooms at the West Beach pavilion are not accessible; she is working with DFFM on the buildings. There is a trailer at East Beach with accessible bathrooms; they are working on permitting for a new bath house there. That trailer will be moved from East to West Beach once the work there is done.
- It will cost \$7000 p/beach to make the water accessible via ramp(s); she is calling Pat Sullivan at the CD office to request funding.
- SMILES will revisit New Bedford so there could be additional funding.

Monkey's Island could be accessible as the handicapped parking spaces are available there; all that needs to be done is to remove the chain across the lot. Tables are also needed there.

Dennis DeMarinis asked about accessible parking @ East Beach.

Ft. Taber has the accessible bathrooms but there is no beach access and the building would have to remain open.

Discussion followed about prioritizing full accessibility @ West Beach rather than divide resources between the two. Martha Bouchard made a motion to:

- make West Beach fully accessible
- provide accessible temporary changing rooms
- provide a wheelchair accessible stall
- provide an accessible porta-john there
- Josh Amaral seconded.

Motion carried 6-0.

The motion was amended to ask that the length of the parking spaces at West Beach be extended so make it easier to load/unload from the rear of the van. Motion carried 6-0. Dennis said he will contact Councillor Lopes and Owen (Jaunna's son) will call Councillor Oliveira.

Mary said that she will be happy to meet with the Commission in the fall to provide updates.

Architect's Report

BG Shanklin reported:

- He has not yet checked out "Me & Ed's"
- The Ash St. variance was approved as requested with no consideration of the Commission's recommendations
- The Age-Friendly working group did not meet this month
- Still waiting to hear if there will be any funding from Mass. Office on Disability re: Transition Plan costs
- Facilities will be installing a ramp on the west side of the Brooklawn Center to make kitchen more accessible
- He is working on the downtown parking issue @ BCC
- He needs to meet with DPI about Harbor Walk Phase II issues – parking, handrails, benches

Josh Amaral moved to accept the architect's report; seconded by Marsha Fernandes. Motion carried 6-0.

Chair's Report

Dennis DeMarinis reported that:

- He met with Kristine Arsenault in the Mayor's Office requesting representation at all Commission meetings
- He will formally invite Councillors to attend meetings
- He will be invited to attend an Appointments & Briefings meeting to update the Council on Commission programs/concerns

New Business

Executive Director's Report

- Cynthia Wallquist updated the members on Fresh Start Program activities and dates for Clear Path advertising and enrollment (late September)

Old Business

- BCC (downtown New Bedford campus) handicapped parking spaces (tabled due to Pam Cole's absence)
- Josh Amaral sent an e-mail to Andrew O'Leary requesting that he meet with BG in August

Announcements

- ADA Training for City Departments has been rescheduled for Sept. 29
- Next Commission Meeting: September 21

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Martha Bouchard and seconded by Marsha Fernandes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberli A. Bettencourt

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Secretary