



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL PLACE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201
617.635.3682 | fax 617.635.2726 | TTY 617.635.2541 | www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions

Minutes for Thursday, January 28th, 2016
9th Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chairperson

Allegra Stout
Vice Chairperson

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(AS) Allegra Stout (KR) Kyle Robidoux (KC) Kimyatta Campbell (JW) John Winske – On Phone (MM) Marc (Moses) Mallard (HW) Heather Watkins (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini- On Phone	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (JD) Jessica Doonan
Not Present: (CR) Carl Richardson	
Guests: Melissa Nussbaum Freeman, Artist in Residence	

October and December Meeting Minutes:

Allegra Stout (AS) made a motion to approve the October minutes which were seconded by Kyle Robidoux (KR) and unanimously approved by all present. AS made a motion to approve the October minutes which were seconded by Marc Mallard (MM) and unanimously approved by all present.

Artist in Residence Program: Melissa Nussbaum Freeman

Jessica Doonan (JD) spoke briefly about the Artist in Residence (AIR) program and her involvement with it so far. JD then introduced Melissa Nussbaum Freeman (MNF) who spoke about her proposal for AIR involving “Play Back Theater” which allows the audience to see their own personal stories played out on stage in different ways. This proposal is in partnership with the Commission on the Affairs of the Elderly and the Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities. MNF would like to work with the elderly and non-elderly disabled population as well as the Board and staff of both commissions. MNFs’ proposal, as well as the other 9 artist proposals, will be reviewed in the coming weeks and three projects will be chosen.

Chair Report: Heather Watkins

Heather Watkins (HW) acknowledged that the City has had a few snow storms over the last few weeks and checked in with the Board to see how they are all doing getting around the City in these conditions. HW mentioned an article that details a program in Baltimore in which youth shovel driveways and sidewalks for those who are unable to do so. Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) mentioned that she serves on a snow task force that is looking at all aspects of snow removal and that City Council is holding a hearing regarding an ordinance exempting the elderly and disabled from the City’s snow removal requirements.

Commissioner Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC opened her report reviewing the Disability Housing Task Force and the subcommittees: services, developing new housing, and info dissemination. KMC also mentioned that a new City office will be opening related to housing, the Office of Housing Stability, and will be under the Department of Neighborhood Development.

KMC then provides a few updates on a variety of topics. It is tax season and JS will be sending out the list of locations for free tax assistance for those who qualify. In regards to the RIDE, all cuts are all off the table as of now but KMC will monitor the situation closely in case anything changes. Related to transportation KMC recently attended a state meeting on disabled placard abuse and will be making her recommendations soon to the Mayor. Finally, the City website is undergoing a full upgrade and it is currently in the pilot stage. The new website will be organized by subject instead of department for ease of navigation.

Architectural Access Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC noted that there are two open positions related to architecture and in the interim she is handling all architecture projects.

Old Business

MM brought up concerns regarding the gaps between the train track and the asphalt on Commonwealth Ave. KMC noted that there is a redesign process that along that road which will include those kinds of concerns as well as others.

AA made a motion to write a letter to the MBTA thanking the Fiscal Control Board for not cutting any services related to The RIDE. This motion was seconded by Kimyatta Campbell (KC) and unanimously approved by all.

Old Action Items

No Old Action Items.

New Business

Colin Killick (CK) spoke to the Board regarding the Alliance of Commissions on Disabilities. Currently the Alliance meets via teleconference the first Wednesday of the month and consists of Somerville, Acton, Cambridge, Worcester and a few others. AS previously served on behalf of Boston but she is unable to continue and CK is looking for more representation from Boston. KMC offered to join and CK will send the information to KMC to disseminate to the rest of the Board. A motion was also made by AS to sign a letter in support of Senate Bill 1323 written by the Alliance. It was seconded by KR and unanimously approved.

MM mentioned that the Massachusetts chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness has a new service known as Compass which helps individuals navigate support services and resources related to mental illness. JD also reported on the Homeless Census run by the Boston Public Health Commission. HW asked KMC about the location of the meetings and proximity to exits in the event of an emergency which KMC will look into.

KMC noted to the Board a few events happening in the next few months. The Government Center MBTA station is opening in March and KMC hopes to have a celebratory event. In April or May KMC is planning an event to promote civic engagement for people with disabilities, especially youth. The date for the spring Community Forum has not yet been set but will hopefully happy at the Copley library.

New Action Items

AS brought up the Governor's Budget for fiscal year 2017 and noted that it called for no change in funding for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program. AS made a motion for a letter to be written asking for an increase the Alternative Housing Voucher Program to 7.1 million dollars in order to restore the original number of vouchers. This motion was seconded by Zary Amirhosseini and seconded by all present.

Public Input

No public input

MM made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by KR and unanimously approved by all present. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.



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KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Room 900, 9th Floor

Thursday January 28th, 2016

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chair

Allegra Stout
Vice Chair

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

REVISED AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of October and December Minutes
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Architectural Access Update - *Kristen McCosh*
- Artist in Residency Program-*Melissa Nussbaum*
- Old Business
- Old Action Items
- New Business- Alliance of Commissions on Disabilities
- New Action Items
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: February 25th, 5:30-7:30pm

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

All meetings held by the City of Boston are required to be accessible for persons with disabilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accommodations are available upon request to any person who requires alternately formatted materials, auxiliary aids, or another accommodation to ensure effective communication and access to attend meetings held by City departments and programs.

Please allow at least 2 weeks to arrange for accommodations. Requests for accommodations may be sent to the contact person for the meeting, or may be forwarded to: Kristen McCosh, City of Boston Disability Commissioner and ADA Coordinator, at kristen.mccosh@cityofboston.gov or 617-635-3682 (voice) or 617-635-2541 (TTY).

To participate in this meeting by phone please dial:

Conference Phone Number: 1-888-322-7166

Participant Code: 4074173#