



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

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

Minutes for Wednesday September 19, 2018
 lanella Chamber, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
 Commissioner

Commission Members

- Zary Amirhosseini
- Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia
- Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong
- Jerry Boyd
- Paul Caron
- Elizabeth Dean-Clower
- Wesley Ireland
- Dusya Lyubovskaya
- Olivia Richard
- Carl Richardson
- Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong (JC) Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia (JB) Jerry Boyd (PC) Paul Caron (ED) Elizabeth Dean-Clower (WI) Wesley Ireland (DL) Dusya Lyubovskaya (OR) Olivia Richard (CR) Carl Richardson (KR) Kyle Robidoux (YS) Yardley Sanchez (JW) John Winske	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (PM) Patricia Mendez (JD) Jessica Doonan (SL) Sarah Leung
A Guests: Marcy Ostberg - Housing Innovation Lab, Nicole Malo & Kristin Humphrey - Partners u for Youth with Disabilities, Para Jayasinghe – Public Works & Frank DePaola - AECOM g	

August Meeting Minutes: Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jerry Boyd and seconded by Olivia Richard and unanimously approved by all present

Housing Innovation Lab/Compact Living Policy, Marcy Ostberg: Marcy Ostberg (MO) spoke to the Board about the work being done by the Housing Innovation Lab over the last few years to try and drive down the cost of housing in the City. One of the initiative is looking at compact living developments which are small well-designed units that make use of common space that provide affordable convenient housing options. MO worked with the Commission on making sure that any policies related to these units still ensure physical accessibility for people with disabilities. Currently, there are no approved policies for this kind of housing.

Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Nicole Malo & Kristin Humphrey: Nicole and Kristin presented to the Board about Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) and the mentorship programs the organization runs both in person and virtually. Through mentorship, PYD hopes to increase opportunities for people with disabilities, specifically youth. PYD also provides internship and job showing opportunities as well as inclusion training.

Northern Avenue Bridge Project, Para Jayasinghe (Public Works) & Frank DePaola (AECOM): Para introduced Frank and Frank discussed the work being done to replace and redesign the Northern Avenue Bridge which was closed a few years ago due to its deteriorating condition. This replacement bridge will ideally be a raised fixed bridge that will also include a new public space. They discussed climate adaption goals and accessibility components with the Board, including accessibility improvements to the harbor walkway. The Board advocated for ramps when possible instead of elevators due to the tendency of elevators to breakdown.

Chair’s Report: Carl Richardson
 No report presented.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC spoke to the Board about the internship program that the Commission is running with nine youth identified by Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission who are placed within different City departments including City Council, the City Clerk and the Commission. These internships help teach job skills and assist in the youth developing confidence within employment. This internship will run for five weeks and will culminate in Disability Mentoring Day which will have job shadowing, presentations of City services and a job fair.

KMC noted that the Copley library ramp installation was delayed due to contractual issues and the ramp will now be installed in late October with automatic sliding doors as well. This ramp will be the permanent temporary ramp until a permanent one is designed and installed.

The Abilities Expo will be September 22-24 at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center and the Commission will be tabling. KMC noted there are two more Board meetings for the end of the year and would like to hold nomination for Board positions in January and elections in February. According to the by-laws the four Board positions are: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. KMC then asked Jessica Doonan (JD) to share a few words about her experience going to Moldova to participate in an outbound project through the American Council for Professional Fellows. JD discussed the work the Commission and the Advisory Board does with stakeholders within Chisinau and Moldova as a whole.

Architectural Access Update: Patricia Mendez

Patricia Mendez (PM) encouraged the Board about the new MBTA transportation access committee (RTAG) meeting October 18, 5:30-7:30 and noted that more information could be found at www.mbta.com/rtag. The MBTA is working on their 15 year plan, Focus40 plan which is open for comment at www.mbtafocus40.com/focus40theplan and PM encouraged the Board to check it out. Lastly, the Adams Street Library is having a public meeting Sept 25 at 6:30 at 690 Adams St. in Dorchester to discuss the plans for the new library.

The Commission is currently working on accessibility within a community garden art installation project that the Office of New Urban Mechanics and is also talking to the proponents of the Old North Church in regards to the major renovations they are planning to the crypt portion of the building. Staff also met with Emerson College which is planning major reconstruction of their sidewalks as part of major construction projects. The Board asked that the staff work to convene a committee with the Board related to accessibility.

Old Business

Jessica Doonan (JD) noted that the letter regarding adaptive sports and Boston Center for Youth and Family is ready to be sent out to Boston Center for Youth and Family.

Olivia Richard spoke to the Board again about the issue of dockless bikes and how they are parked on sidewalks. She requested education and regulations be put together in regards to this. KMC hopes to have representatives related to this issue at the next Board meeting. She also clarified that currently dockless bikes are not allowed within the City of Boston.

Elizabeth Dean-Clover (EDC) spoke to the Board about the MBTA ride Uber/Lyft pilot program and the disparity in the rides allotted per individual. It was noted that since this is a pilot there is limited power to petition this program but that the Commission will look into the issue. She also noted the continued lack of wheelchair accessible vehicles within Uber/Lyft/Curb. It was suggested that a transportation subcommittee be formed in the coming months.

New Business

EDC asked for an agenda item to be added for "announcements" which will be taken under advisement.

Action Item and Public Input

None at this time.

Adjournment

JB made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and approved.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm