



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

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Minutes for Monday May 21, 2018
9th Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

Commission Members

Zary Amirhosseini

Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong

Jerry Boyd

Eugene Gloss

Dusya Lyubovskaya

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

John Winske

Present:	Staff Present:
(JB) Jerry Boyd (DL) Dusya Lyubovskaya On Phone: (KR) Kyle Robidoux Not Present: (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (EG) Eugene Gloss (CR) Carl Richardson (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong (JW) John Winske	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (PM) Patricia Mendez (JD) Jessica Doonan (SL) Sarah Leung
Guests: Stacey Kokaram, Boston Public Health Commission; Caroline Whiddon, Me2 Orchestra	

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April and May Meeting Minutes: As there was not a quorum present, the minutes were tabled.

City of Boston Department Presentation: Boston Public Health Commission, Stacey Kokaram: Stacey Kokaram (SK) spoke to the Board about the initiative that the Boston Public Health Commission Office of Public Health Preparedness is working on for extreme temperature planning. This planning is a result of the Climate Ready Boston plan, the City’s Resiliency Plan, and Imagine Boston 2030. As part of the planning, the Disability Commission and constituents with disabilities are being consulted to discuss how extreme temperatures impact people with disabilities. Not only is the focus on how to better prepare for these temperatures, it is also on how to get info on extreme temperature resources out to everyone in a way that they can access.

City of Boston Development Presentation: Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Sarah Leung: Sarah Leung (SL) discussed the newly created accessibility checklist for events that happen throughout the different areas of City Hall Plaza. This checklist will assist in ensuring that accessibility needs will be met prior to the event occurring and was prompted by a series of events on the plaza in which accessibility was not met. In addition to the checklist, the Commission works with the organizers and architects if they see something of concern or if there are any questions. So far the Commission has received three checklists back from organizers of events.

Chair’s Report: Jerry Boyd for Carl Richardson
No report at this time.

Commissioner’s Report: Kristen McCosh
KMC began her report by reminding the Board of the Community Forum on Wednesday May 30th from 2-4pm at the Copley Library and encouraged Board members to attend. She then explained the logistical challenges of expanding the Board and hopes they will be solved by June. The Commission is currently working with the Transportation Department and Boston Bikes on new regulations on bikes and bike riding. ON the subject of bikes there was some discussion about enforcement of bike regulations and the issues other municipalities are having with dockless bike rentals. The accessibility priority survey has reached a milestone of over 600 surveys which is very exciting and will continue to be

open till ADA Day on July 24th. KMC then introduced Ion Schidu, a Fellow from Moldova at the Commission for the month, who spoke briefly about his background and the work he is doing in regards to the Commission and Human Rights.

Architectural Access Update: Patricia Mendez

Patricia Mendez (PM) discussed a document the Commission is working on with the Public Works Department regarding curb cuts and pedestrian curb ramps regulations that will be posted on the Public Works website. PM also attended the regional meeting of Massachusetts Commissions on Disabilities and hopes to host emergency preparedness training and Community Access Monitor training which she learned of during the regional meeting. The last Architectural Access Board (AAB) public hearings regarding the updates to 521 CRM will be Thursday May 31st in Hyannis. Summer will be spent reviewing the info gathered before a final hearing. Lastly, there was a training held at City Hall led by Director Hopkins from the AAB regarding how to read AAB variances for members of different Disability Commissions all over the Commonwealth. The workshop was a success and there is a hope of holding it again next year.

Disability Organization Presentation: Boston Brakers Jim Wice and Jim Farrow: Jim Wice briefly explained the Boston Braker Power Wheelchair Soccer Club and about the importance of adaptive sports and recreation for people with disabilities. He then advocated for additional inclusion of people with disabilities through different sports and activities throughout the City of Boston. Jim felt that best way to do that was through identifying or hiring a professional who expertise in adaptive sports and recreation, possibly through the Boston Center for Youth and Family. A motion was made by John Winske (JW) and seconded by Jerry Boyd (JB) for the Board to write a letter to Boston Center for Youth and Family to inquire as to the programs and services that were available to people with disabilities throughout their sites and ask that they come to a meeting to talk about their services. It was discussed that sports and recreation should be available to people with varying disabilities, not just wheelchair users.

Old Business

No old business at this time.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Action Item

No new action items at this time.

Public Input

Commissioner informed the public that the annual ADA Day Celebration will take place July 24th from 12-2pm on City Hall Plaza.

Adjournment

JW made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kyle Robidoux seconded.

Next meeting: Monday, May 21st, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm