

Commission on Disability Meeting
Minutes from Tuesday, July 16, 2013
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Room, 3rd flr
4:15 PM

Attendance

Members present: Rachel Brown, Herbert Cremer, John Nah, Stephen Stolberg, Charles Hiamah, and Lynne Towler

Members absent: Javier Pena and Pauline Piso

Staff: Jayna Turчек, Dawn Clark, Pamela Callahan

Members of the Public: Scott Babbitt, Scott Ricker, John Provost, Dave Johnson, Jacqueline Norton, Terry Kelly, Steve Brown, and Jo Hart.

1. Call to Order: The meeting began with a call to order and welcome from the chairperson. The Commission went around the table introducing themselves.

2. Approval of June 18, 2013 Minutes:

Mr. Stolberg motioned to accept the minutes as written and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nah. There were 5 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

3. Public Comment Period:

Chairperson Brown explained the public comment period guidelines asking that comments reflect needs of the disabled and an opportunity was given to reserve time later in the meeting to express their concerns on a particular item on the agenda. The Chairperson also reminded the public this is an advisory commission.

Mr. Scott Ricker asked the Commission to look into handicap accessible bathrooms and services at city events. Mr. Ricker also asked the Commission to look into the handicap accessibility of sports fields that have had worked performed.

Mr. John Provost suggested the commission look into the transportation system's insufficiencies for both handicapped and non-handicapped Worcester residents to enhance our public transportation system.

Ms. Jacqueline Norton encouraged the Commission to take a more active role in advising city projects.

Ms. Jo Hart informed the Commission about upcoming WRTA meetings.

4. Election of Officers:

Chair Nominations:

Nominees: Mr. Herbert Cremer

Motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Hiamah and seconded by Mr. Stolberg

Motion to close: 5 in favor, 1 abstain

Election of Mr. Cremer as Chairman: 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstain: Mr. Herbert Cremer was elected Chairman.

Vice Chair Nominations:

Nominees: Mr. Charles Hiamah
Mr. Stephen Stolberg

Motion to close nominations was made by Ms. Towler and seconded by Mr. Nah.

Motion to close nominations: 6 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

Election: 4 votes in favor of Mr. Stolberg and 2 votes in favor of Mr. Hiamah: Mr. Stephen Stolberg was elected Vice Chairman.

Secretary Nominations:

Nominees: Mr. Charles Hiamah

Motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Cremer motioned and seconded by Mr. Stolberg.

Motion to close: 6 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain

Election: 5 in favor, 0 oppose, 1 abstain: Mr. Charles Hiamah was elected Secretary

5. Commission's Annual Report:

Mr. Cremer and Ms. Brown offered edits. A motion to accept the Commissions Annual Report with amendments was made by Mr. Stolberg and seconded by Ms. Towler. 6 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain. Motion carries.

6. Disability Etiquette Video:

The City Cable Services has offered to assist the Commission on a video project. The Etiquette video will be an educational and awareness tool for the community using the cable access channel.

Mr. Hiamah and Mr. Stolberg developed scenarios that demonstrate proper behavior when communicating with people with disabilities. The scenarios will be videotaped Wednesday, August 14, 2013.

Individuals interested in volunteering to help develop script or act can contact Director Turchek. Recommendations for future scenarios were made that included bullying of the disabled, treatment of persons with disabilities in restaurants, and cultural/linguistic implications of etiquette.

7. Commission on Disability Brochure:

The Commission discussed wording in the brochure. Mr. Stolberg motioned to accept the Commission on Disability brochure and the motion was seconded by Ms. Towler. 6 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 abstain; motion carries.

8. AAB notices and applications:

Notification of the Architectural Access Board approval for variance on entrances and access at Fire Alarm Building (Spencer Savings) at 230 Park Ave. Worcester, MA.

Notification of the Architectural Access Board approval for variance on the slope of curb cut on the southwest corner of Wigwam Avenue and Lake Street in Worcester, MA.

9. Director's Report

The city received a donation from Easter Seals of a telesensory machine that will make it easier for persons with disabilities to read paper documents.

The Office has started a pilot project for giving city hall tours to persons with disabilities. By the end of July the Office will have held three tours. This is a way to connect people with disabilities to their municipal government and learn what services are available. The tours are done in honor of the July anniversary of the passage of the ADA.

The City requested proposals for consultants to update the City's ADA Transition Plan. The application period has recently closed and the applications will be

viewed shortly. The consultant(s) when selected will work with the Commission on Disability for input and review of the plan.

10.Next Meeting :

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at the Worcester Regional Transit Authority Transportation Hub, Union Station, 3rd Floor Conference Room.

The Office will coordinate transportation to the HUB. Commission members suggested meeting at 3:45pm, take a shuttle from City Hall to the WRTA, receive a tour at 4:15, and then have their scheduled meeting. Director Turchek will confirm prior to the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:13

Respectfully submitted:

Ryan Ollis
Intern
Office of Human Rights &
Disabilities

Jayna Turchek
Director
Office of Human Rights
& Disabilities