

Commission on Disability Meeting  
Minutes for May 17th, 2016, 4:30PM  
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber, Room 309, 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr.

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:**, Francesca Abbey , Robert Bilotta, Herbert Cremer, Nancy Garr-Colzie, Lindsey Silva, Elizabeth Myska, Joseph Prochilo (via Skype), Douglas Russell, Jr., Stephen Stolberg

**Members Absent:** Robert Bureau, Paul Keister

**Staff:** Pamela Callahan, Dawn E. Clark

**Guests:** Michael Kennedy, Access Coordinator, Center for Living & Working, Inc.

Members of the Public: Scott Ricker, Sue Philips

**Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Nancy Garr-Colzie welcomed commission members and the members of the public present.

**Approval of April 19th, 2016 Minutes**

Commissioner Stolberg moved to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Myska seconded the motion. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

**Conversation with Richard Fiske (review of emergency shelter and update on progress made towards COD's priorities)**

Mr. Fiske was not able to be present do to an emergency.

**Report from Primary Election Survey of Polling Locations (Michael Kennedy and Steven Stolberg, Center for Living & Working, Inc.)**

Mr. Kennedy provided the following report as a result of a survey of Worcester's Polling location done on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 primary election by the Center for Living & Working, Inc. staff (Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Stolberg. This survey was initiated and sponsored by the Disability Law Center in Boston through the Help America Vote Act.

**Mass Audubon Society** – 414 Massasoit Rd – Ward 5, Precinct 5 –  
Mike

- Brand new parking lot. Easy access to the building and inside.
- **Issues** – None. However, there was a citywide problem with the AutoMARK machines because the ballots were longer than usual and the machine could not handle it.

**Dodge Park Rest Home** – 101 Randolph Rd – Ward 3, Precinct 1 –  
Mike

- Issues:
  1. HP Spaces have no access aisle
  2. Interior directional signage to where the voting took place could have been better
  3. The AutoMARK was not even on because they were waiting for the Election Commission to come and fix it. It was also in full view of the voting public.

**Willows at Worcester Great Room** – 101 Barry Rd. Ward 1, Precinct 2 –  
Mike

- Issues:
  1. It's a large complex and there was no signage directing one to the Great Room
  2. 2 of 4 HP Spaces had no above-ground signage

3. AutoMARK machine was in full view of the voting public. Could not speak to the Warden because it was very there.

**Assumption College LA Maison Francais** – 500 Salisbury St. Ward 1, Precinct 3 – Mike

- AutoMARK was set up to ensure privacy. Accessible entrance in a different location but signage led you there.
- **Issues:**  
The parking lot closest to this building had no accessible spaces. Only one HP space, in front of the building, on the semi-circular driveway

**Unitarian Universalist Church Hall** – 90 Holden St. Ward 1, Precinct 1 – Mike

- **Issues:**
  1. Parking lot striping including the access aisle is badly faded.
  2. AutoMARK was set up to ensure privacy but the warden told me they could not get it to work due to the size of the ballot.

**Worcester Art Museum** – 55 Salisbury Street – Ward 3, Precinct 2 – Mike

A huge renovation was done here that created a new ramp, accessible entrance and compliant HP parking spaces

- Issues
- The AutoMARK was set up in full view of the public. When I pointed this out to the Warden, he immediately moved the table to alleviate the issue. Workers were very cooperative.

**Worcester Center for Crafts** – 25 Sagamore Road – Ward 3, Precinct 3 – Mike

- Issues

1. Cold patch that transitions the parking lot to the walkway is worn and needs to be redone
2. Only 1 HP space in a parking lot that hold approximately 100 cars
3. One inch change of surface level between the walkway and cement slab at the entrance
4. I did not see a lower voting booth for people who use wheelchairs and the AutoMARK was in full view of the voting public. I could not bring it to the Warden's attention because she was on her cell phone when I was there.

**Super Stop & Shop** – 949 Grafton Street – Ward 5, Precinct 4 – Mike

Located in a multi-store strip with several HP spaces

- Issues

1. One of the double automatic doors closest to where the voting took place wasn't working
2. The Warden on duty would not let me observe the voting area citing privacy reasons. I could see that the AutoMARK was set up in full view of the voting public. The Warden was not cooperative at all.

**Quinsigamond Village Community Center** – 16 Greenwood St – Ward 6, Precinct 4 – Mike

AutoMARK was set up to ensure privacy. Institute for Human-Centered Design Report (Review of polling places done for the city as part of Worcester's ADA Transition Plan) suggested that this voting poll be eliminated.

- Issues:

- 1) Parking lot in poor condition, striping is badly faded.

- 2) HP space access aisle only 3' wide
- 3) Accessible entrance door has no real hardware, just a piece of metal
- 4) Interior door has non-compliant hardware that you grasp and turn your wrist

**Our Lady of Loreto, Parish Center** – 33 Massasoit Road- ward 5, Precinct 2 – Mike

- Issues

- 1) 1" lip where parking lot transitions to walkway/entrance slab
- 2) 3 HP spaces but only 1 had a compliant above-ground sign
- 3) The AutoMARK could be seen from the accessible lower voting booth. The police officer was aware of it but there was limited space in the area where voting took place.

**Friendly House, rear gym** – 36 Wall Street – Ward 4, Precinct 4 - Mike

This voting poll made a tremendous turnaround from one of the worst voting polls in terms of access & privacy to one of the best.

**Great Brook Valley Multi-Purpose Center** – 180 Constitution Ave – Ward 2, Precinct 5 – Steve

- Issues

- 1) Path of travel from parking to the entrance in poor condition due to frost heaves and the sidewalk has excessive slope.
- 2) AutoMARK was set up in full view of the voting public. The Warden moved the machine when Steve brought this to her attention.

**Salem Covenant Church, rear entrance** – 215 Mountain Street – Ward 2, Precinct 1 – Steve

No issues with the placement of the AutoMARK

- Issues

1. Most of the parking is in front of the church. The voting took place in the back and there was no signage leading you there
2. There is a 1.5” Lip at the gym entrance where the voting took place

**First Assembly of God Church Hall** – 30 Tyler Prentice Road – Ward 3, Precinct 5 – Steve

No issues at all. They learn well

**ZION Lutheran Church, Leeds St side** – 41 Whitmarsh Ave – Ward 2, Precinct 2

- Issues:

1. No designated parking lot for this church. One on-street HP space near the church entrance
2. AutoMARK was placed in full view of the voting public. The Police officer on duty was dismissive to Steve when he brought this to his attention.

A Commission member noted that the parking lot for the Church was across the street from the front of the church.

**Lincoln Village Tenants Association** – 116 Country Club Blvd – Ward 2, Precinct 4 - Steve

A temporary accessible space was set up next to the permanent accessible space.

No issues at all. IHCD recommended that the voting poll be moved from the pool center and this is where they moved.

**Main South CDC** – 875 Main Street – Ward 8, Precinct 2 - Steve

Easy access to the building from the parking lot

No AutoMARK placement issues

**St. Peter's Church Hall, Grand St. side** – 929 Main Street – Ward 8, Precinct 3 – Steve

- Issues

1. No designated lot for the church hall. Parking was on Main Street.
2. Doorway was only 32” wide, the threshold was not compliant

This location is questionable at best when it comes to accessibility. Main South CDC is only a couple blocks away and is a much better building with its own parking lot.

**Big Y World Class Market, right front door** – Ward 7, Precinct 1 – Steve

- Issues

AutoMARK was set so the voting public could see the screen. No privacy hood present The Police officer moved the machine when concern was brought it to his attention.

**South Worcester Neighborhood Center** – 55 Camp Street – Ward 8, Precinct 5 - Mike

The Institute for Human-Centered Design recommended that another location be found for this precinct.

- Issues:

1. The planned ramp has not been installed.
2. Surveyor had to be carried up the stairs because lift broke

There was discussion that language interpreters were being used at polls. This roll has been filled by young people. The point was made ASL interpreters for the deaf may be needed as well.

Absentee ballot is an alternative way to vote. The absentee ballot process is: Ask the Election Office for an absentee ballot application. This application can request a ballot for one election in a year or all elections in a year. The ballot(s) is(are) sent to the persons identified address. The person votes and mails the completed ballot back to the Elections office at City Hall prior to the election day. Absentee ballots are then distributed to the appropriate precinct for counting.

Staff liaison Pam Callahan said that Sue Ledoux, acting City Clerk is expected to be the Commission's guest next month to talk about the early voting process and any voting alternatives.

The Commission thanked Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Stolberg for conducting and reporting on their survey results.

### **Review of May Meetings:**

- Massachusetts Community Transportation Coordination Conference- Held at Holy Cross College, May 3rd, 2016  
Commissioner Garr-Colzie attended and reported that there were Many presenters including Uber and Lift are now operating in Massachusetts, however, to date they do not have transportation for people with disabilities. They are working on this addition to their service. Various Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) from around the state were present including the Worcester RTA. This Conference as sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT)  
[www.massdot.state.ma.us/transit/StatewideMobilityManagement/RegionalCoordinatingCouncilsRCCs.aspx](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/transit/StatewideMobilityManagement/RegionalCoordinatingCouncilsRCCs.aspx)
- Reporting Disabled and Elder Abuse Training: Worcester Senior



Center, May 10th, 2016. (Nancy Garr-Colzie) This training was cosponsored by the Commission on Disability and the Elder affairs Commission. Presenters were Susan Love, Disabled Persons Protection Commission (serving people ages 18 to 59) and **Mary Parenteau**, Protective Services Unit at Elder Services (serving people 60 and older). Commissioner Garr-Colzie explained these are the services that can help when abuse or neglect is suspected. Anyone can report abuse/neglect to these respective entities. Some people because of the positions they hold including nurses and other types of medical and human service workers are considered mandated reporters.

The Disabled Persons Protection Commission Hotline is 1-800-416-9009 and 1-888-822-0350 TTY.

The Office will provide Commission members the documents shared at the May 10<sup>th</sup> “What to do if You Suspect Abuse of Persons with Disabilities or Elders” Training: Disabled Persons Protection Commission Power Point (including how to file an abuse report) and Protection Services Unit- Elder Services of Worcester fact sheet. Both entities receive funds from the State of Massachusetts.

The City of Worcester cable services staff produced a video on this topic featuring the training’s presenters: **Susan Love**, Disabled Persons Protection Commission and **Mary Parenteau**, Protective Services Unit at Elder Services with Jayna Turchek as the moderator. This video can be found on the City website: the link is <http://ec4.cc/df8fd692> It is posted on Video on Demand webpage, under Human Rights & Disabilities.

## **Announcement: Summer Tours of City Hall for Persons with Disabilities**

This is the fourth year for this program.

With this program people with disabilities learn about City Hall operations and are encouraged to engage in the participatory process of local government. Participants discover how city government works while also witnessing City Hall's handsome architecture. The program expects to include a welcome and an introduction by the Mayor's office and the Office on Disabilities, with a brief presentation on the City Hall architecture by Preservation Worcester. Following the presentations, everyone is invited to participate in a Mock City Council meeting with City Councilor Tony Economou and then take a guided tour of City Hall led by Preservation Worcester docents. Participants learn that their city government is accessible to them and desires to be responsive to their needs.

This year, there are five tours of City Hall being planned. Two new tours are targeted for people with specific disabilities. On June 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a tour for the Visually Impaired Person (VIP). Those involved with the planning include Elizabeth Myska, Commission member, Susan Ceccacci from Preservation Worcester, Vince Lombardi of Audio Journal, City Councilor Anthony Economou and Jack Peacock of Complements.

These same individuals along with members of the Deaf community are planning a tour of City Hall for people who are Deaf on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The other three tours will be on Thursdays: July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM to Noon with the option of joining the "Out To Lunch Program" with concert and other activities on the Common following the tour. The Worcester School Transition Summer Program students, Center for Living & Working, Inc. consumers and interns and

people from Seven Hills have participated in past years and the hope is they will join a tour again this year.

All people with disabilities and their allies are invited to participate. To sign up for a tour, please call the office at 508-799-8483.

### **Review of AAB notices and applications: City properties in bold**

#### **Correspondence:**

- 55 Lake Avenue North, Docket #V14 353

#### **Decisions:**

- **2 Washington Square, Docket #C14 973**

The Chair person request that the decision's conclusion be read:

-Find in favor of the complainant regarding the reported violation of the 521 CMR 17.4 regarding the lack of accessible seating at the bar area, and 531 CMR 20.2 regarding the lack of an accessible route to the patio from the lower level.

-Require that the Petitioners provide verification of compliance or a variance application regarding the reported violations of 521 CMR, to be submitted to the Board within 30 days receipt of this decision of the Board.

-Require that the Board Staff send a letter to the Licensing Board of the City of Worcester to determine who holds the liquor license for Luciano's Cotton Club.

- Expedite the decision of the Board, therefore bypassing the Board's approval of the decision prior to it being sent out to all parties concerned.

April 25, 2016

- 50 Water Street, Docket # V15 001

### **Suggestions for upcoming agenda items**

- Michael Kennedy from the Center for Living & Working, Inc. Brought to the Commission's attention that there has been complaint filed with the AAB regarding the Myra Kraft Bridge in Elm Park for about a 3 inch level change between the pathway and

the bridge at both sides. This was a concern to the Commission because a Commission member was at the Park on Saturday and took pictures which show there is a flat surface onto the bridge.

- Display board at Elm Park is not accessible.
- CTTV Camera in City Parks Update
- Best Buddies Presentation
- Commission have their picture taken at the bridge at Elm Park and send to Mr. Kraft. (Afternoon and weekday - Thursday/Friday best)

### **Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions**

Nominated for the position of chair:

Nancy Garr-Colzie  
Robert Bollota (Associate)

Nominated for the position of Vice Chair:

Francesca Abbey  
Steve Stolberg

### **Announcements:**

- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting**  
May 18th, 2016, 1-2:30pm, WRTA Building, 287 Grove St.
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled)**  
June 7th, 2016, 4:00 – 5:30PM, YWCA, Members Lounge
- **MOD; Community Access Monitor 2 Day Training:** June 29th & June 30, 2016, Framingham, MA, 9:00-4:00 - 1-800-322-2020  
Registration due before June 16th, 2016.
- **War Memorial Unveiling: June 4th, 2016,** Worcester Common, 12:00 PM following parade from Union Station at 11:30
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** June 21st, 2016  
4:30pm

**Emergency Preparedness Tip:** People with disabilities may want to consider having several gallon containers of water per person at home for emergencies.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned.