

Commission on Disabilities Meeting Summary
February 9, 2011 4:00 p.m.
Esther Howland Chamber

Present: Rachel Brown, Herbert Cramer, Deborah Malone, Steve Stolberg, Lynne Towler, Grace Clark

Absent: Mary Healey, John Cronin, David Perry

Guests: Jacqueline Norton, Mike Kennedy

Staff: Derek Brindisi, Christina Andreoli

1. Meeting Called to Order at 4:05 PM. Motion to Approve the November and December Minutes and Meeting Summary allowed.
2. Herb discussed the polling location at the Willows and aired concerns relative to disability issues. Christina Andreoli indicated she would discuss with Clerk's Office.
3. Transition Plan – Christina Andreoli provided an update to the Commission relative to staff roles and responsibilities for Fran Manocchio's functions. Rachel Brown, Chair, was to meet with the City Manager to advocate for Fran's former position. Commission discussed supporting a part-time position for Fran's former position. Motion to approve. Voted 5-0
4. Commission asked to provide statistics on the Disabilities Office to include # of complaints; topics and resolution. Christina Andreoli indicated that this would be provided to the Commission at the next Commission meeting. Jacqueline Norton expressed concerns that number of complaints could mean that potential clients did not know where to go.
5. Jacqueline Norton informed the Commission of the February 16th – Regional Mobility Study (CMRPC) public meeting. The meetings are held from 4-5:30 PM and 5:30 – 7 PM at Union Station. Deborah Malone agreed to attend the meeting.
6. Mike Kennedy from the Center for Living and Working discussed a workshop through the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities, and asked the Commission to support the Event as a Sponsor. He also discussed conducting a Community Access Training through MOD. Recommendations were the Library and/or Senior Center. Derek Brindisi to follow-up. Vote for the Commission to Co-Sponsor Event in May. City will need to determine financial feasibility, and whether to

- charge a fee and provide credits to City employees who participate. Vote to Support upon City Approval.
7. Commission asked if the Administration could look into additional revenues from Parking Tickets in Handicapped Space. Derek to follow-up.
 8. Chair Rachel Brown asked if Derek would be participating in ADA-related training. Derek indicated that he would look for opportunities but there is no formal training scheduled.
 9. Snow Removal re: City Council's Decision to Issue of a Moratorium of the existing ordinance for homeowners whose sidewalks abut a highway. How will the snow be cleared from these walks? Rachel indicated that the City is not ADA compliant. Derek Brindisi will follow-up with Traffic on Snow Removal for Moratorium. The Commission agreed contact City Council regarding the Moratorium and accessibility concerns. Rachel will write a letter to City Council.
 10. Bullying – Commission would like to tackle this issue. Herb will be direct the project and will be the liaison to the Human Rights Commission. It will include youth, elderly, and individuals with disabilities.
 11. Elections Commission – ADA Compliance. Accessibility at the Polls. Anna Marie College – Prescott Street: Ramp is inaccessible. City arranged for ramp to be created. The slope is not in compliance with ADA regulations. Christina will follow-up with Clerk's Office. Report back on Elections. Administration agreed to speak with David Rushford on additional actions that should be taken to bring elections compliant with ADA regulations prior to the next election.
 12. Emergency Management – Registry Outreach Plan. Commission discussed insert in the Tax Bill and drafting a Press Release that could be sent to the community/public hearings list of Non Profits.
 13. Rachel received letter from City Manager O'Brien designating another space in the City Hall garage for handicapped use. Commission agreed that this was satisfactory, and agreed to take City Hall Garage off the table.
 14. ADA Transition Plan Work Group Update - Mike Kennedy. Myrtle Street
 15. Functional Assessment – WRTA
 16. Commission Project List. Add Bullying to the List
 17. CitySquare Project – Christina will speak with Tim McGourthy on inviting a representative from the project to present before the Commission.

18. Construction Projects – DPW. Derek will meet with Joe Borbone to discuss future construction projects that should be brought before the Commission. Rob Antonelli would like to come before the Commission in April to discuss the Green Hill Park Dam Repair Project.
19. Commission would like to publicize their meetings on the Government Channel and update Web Site Information. Christina will look into with Cable Services.
Vote 5-0
20. Discussion on Possible Stings with Parking Enforcement to Bring Attention to those who violate handicapped accessibility parking regulations.