

Minutes from Wednesday, September 14, 2011 Commission on
Disability Meeting
Worcester Public Library: Banx Roon
4:30PM

Attendance:

Members: Rachel Shannon Brown, Herbert Cremer, Charles Hianah,
Deborah Malone, Lynne Towler

Guests: Grace Clark, Jackie Norton

Staff: Derek Brindisi, Dawn E. Clark

Minutes:

The chairperson requested that action on the August 24, 2011 minutes be tabled the next meeting so members could review.

Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Staff

a. Intake Update – The Commission received the report for July 1 – September 13th. There were 12 new cases with issue housing, transportation, need for advocate for court proceedings. One of the cases concerning an inquiry about a possible job prompted a member to report that both Framingham and Waltham had deputized people to give tickets to people parking illegally in handicapped spaces.

b. Meeting Times, Dates and Locations – The next meeting will be held on October 19th. In keeping with the Commission's request to meet around the city particularly in multiple housing units to encourage people with disabilities to participate, staff worked with management of one of the city's housing units who were welcoming and requested time on the agenda to let residents share their concerns. The Commission agreed to add half and hour at 6:30 PM for this purpose.

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c. Interviews – Interviews for the Human Rights and Disabilities Director are on hold. Mr. Cremer requested a copy of the job description and the job posting for the Disability Intake Coordinator.

Old Business and Updates

- a. Elections Commission/ Anna Maria College Location** – The Chairperson reported that the training for Wardens/Clerks went well and thank those who attended on August 30th and September 1st. A member noted that the Letter to the Editor had appeared in the Worcester Telegram. He also asked how many people used the AutoMARK (ballot marker). Mr. Brindisi read for an email from the City Clerk related to this question:

“There is no official data on use of the Auto-Marks. There is no counter on the machine that would reveal to anyone the exact number of users at any given election. All information reported concerning usage or non-usage is strictly guesswork.

If the commission is wishing to gather this information, they are welcome to arrange with the Election Commission to have their “viewers” stationed inside the polls, But that work is not a part of our function and we have just 6 six workers to run each poll who are busy completing the statutorily required tasks that are required of them and us.”

The Architectural Access Board has not visited Anna Maria College site to inspect the ramp as requested in August. The Chairperson asked staff to follow up on this issue.

b. Snow Removal and Moratorium – Still in progress

A member commented that the Snow Removal Committee met at Union Station where the parking for handicapped was difficult and the walk to the meeting place was long. Last year the Committee failed to give out certificates. Staff indicated this was a goal for this year and was a suggestion made but was not in the work plan for last year.

c. Bullying Project Update - The liaison with regard to projects,

~~programs, ideas and other work related to anti-bullying between~~
the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Disability reported concern that the Commission on Human Rights had tabled anti-bullying work until a Human Rights and Disabilities Director was hired. Mr. Cremer addressed a personal bullying issue related to a disability access case at MCAD and requested assistance and referral. The Commission suggested that he speak with the police, attorney, etc.

d. ADA Emergency Preparedness Task Force – On Friday (September 26th) the Taskforce is scheduled to visit Wesley United Methodist Church and the Senior Center and on Monday (September 29th) four schools (Burncoat, Doherty, North and Worcester Tech) to determine suitability for emergency sheltering. The recent hurricane brought about a dozen people to the shelter at Worcester Tech. Transportation was seen as an issue.

- e. **Commission Outreach Plan** – The Commission plans to meet in places around the city. Suggestion was made to have a table at the various spring and summer fairs.
 - f. **Service Animal/ Companion Animal Ordinance** – The Chairperson requested that staff draft a request for the Commission to make to the City Manager.
 - g. **Pedestrian Right of Way Committee Update** – The members, individually, reviewed the regulations and suggested all members read them.
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Transition Plan, Accessibility, and Access board Issues

- a. **Functional Needs Assessment Letter** – Tabled

Member Update and New Business

Jackie Norton indicated the new HUD Regulations were out and needs to take the lead in achieving accessibility.

There is a hearing on the reconstruction of the Quinsigamond Bridge between Worcester and Shrewsbury.

Items held for Future Discussion

- a. **Friends of the Commission**
- b. **AAB Updates**
- c. **Transportation and TPAG**
- d. **Transition Plan Update**

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e. John Street Church

f. Construction Project Wish List

g. HP Parking Violation Fine Increase

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Malone

Secretary
