

Commission on Disability Meeting
Minutes for July 19th, 2016, 4:30PM
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber, Room 309, 3rd Flr.

Attendance:

Members Present:, Francesca Abbey, Robert Bilotta, Robert Bureau, Herbert Cremer, Nancy Garr-Colzie, Paul Keister, Elizabeth Myska, Joseph Prochilo, Douglas Russell, Jr., Lindsey Silva

Staff: Pamela Callahan, Jayna Turcek Dawn E. Clark

Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions

Chairperson Paul Keister welcomed commission members and the members of the public present. He then requested Commission Garr-Colzie to chair the meeting.

Approval of, May 17th and June 21st, 2016 Minutes

Commissioner Abbey moved to approve both sets of minutes with minor changes. Robert Bilotta seconded the motion. All approved.

Discussion regarding polling locations and recommendations for accessibility improvements

Ms. Callahan drafted a memo to the City Manager conveying the Commission's discussion and recommendations for accessibility improvements regarding the city's polling locations. The Commission received an update to that memo which included the following clarification: poll workers are not to interact with anyone except those people who are present to vote so others do not interfere with those voting. So when people looking at accessibility features ask to move the Auto marc to face the correct way, poll workers cannot respond because they have been given strict guidance not to interact with people other than voters. Any one with questions or concerns should address the warden or the Elections Commission directly. Regarding changes of

polling locations: Any change made in polling locations has to go through the Election Commission.

The question was raised would Early Voting in Worcester still happen if the Governor did not sign the funding bill for this? This answer is yes. Funding for Early Voting in the City has been allocated in the city budget. The polling sites have not been finalized. When they are approved they will be published. These designated sites will be spread throughout the city. Not all of the usual voting locations will be open.

Commissioner Cremer requested to please remind people, particularly elderly and disabled, absentee balloting is an option.

Commissioner Prochilo made a motion to forward the Polling Location recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services. Commission Abbey seconded. All approved.

Election of Officers

FY'17 Officers were elected unanimously as follows:

Chairperson – Commissioner Nancy Garr-Colzie; Vice Chairperson – Commissioner Francesca Abbey

Approval of FY'16 Commission on Disability Annual Report

The report will be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Department of Health & Human Services.

Review of AAB notices and applications: City properties in bold

No AAB correspondences this month.

Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

- Report on CCTV cameras
- Street lighting change

City Hall Information Booth

The booth is now handicapped accessible.

Announcements:

- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting**
September 21st, 2016, 1-2:30pm, WRTA HUB, 50 Foster Street
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled)**
September 6th, 2016, 4:00 – 5:30PM, YWCA, Members Lounge
- **Audio Journal, Accent on Ability Radio Program:** August 9th, 2016, 5-6pm, <http://www.audiojournal.net/>
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** August 16th, 2016 4:30pm.
- **Emergency Preparedness Meeting:** November TBD 2016 at 8:30 am, Parks Department, 50 Skyline Drive or if moved 2 Coppage Drive.

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.