



City of Worcester  
Department of Health and Human Services  
**Disabilities Division**

James G. Gardiner, Acting Commissioner  
Health and Human Services

Lawrence M. Raymond  
Director, Disabilities

City of Worcester  
**Commission on Disability**

Type of Meeting: Regular

Date and Time Convened: July 9, 2008, 4 p.m.

Place Where Convened: Worcester City Hall, room 310

Members Present: Rachael Brown, Dawn Clark, Grace Clark, John Cronin,  
Mary Healey, Jacqueline Norton, Daphne Phillips

Members Absent: Joe Sinasky

Associates Absent: Jill Swerzenski

Staff Present: Mike Galvin, Larry Raymond

Public Present: Mike Kennedy

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Called to order by Chairperson Dawn Clark at 4:09 p.m.
2. Acceptance of Minutes. Motion to accept the minutes for June 2008 by Rachael Brown, second by John Cronin.
3. Communications and Reports.
  - a. Communication of the Chair. Rachael Brown was elevated to full member. Dawn Clark invites members to attend The CLW event at the Worcester Vocational High School. Mike Kennedy stated that there will not be a Corey Nelson award this year because only one nomination was submitted, and it was an agency.
  - b. Director's Report.
    - i. Larry Raymond reported that the City Council has voted Rachael Brown and Daphne Phillips full members. They will be sworn in during the week.
    - ii. Larry reports that Gus Giordano is taking over the management of the Union Station Restaurant and that he will be responsible for scheduling events.
    - iii. Larry reported that despite the presence and testimony from commission members and disabled veterans, the Off-Street Parking Board voted to continue the policy

regarding the elimination of free parking for individuals with plates or placards at City garages. This policy will be suspended until September and members were advised that the next meeting was scheduled for July 22 at 76 E. Worcester St., 6 p.m. It's possible an agreement can be made to allow 2-3 hours of free parking or at a reduced rate. Larry also spoke to the Manager of Hanover Theatre. He mentioned that if the city changed their policy, they would also. Mike Galvin mentioned that the Parking board stated that they wanted all garages to have the same policy. The abuse of placards was an issue. Suggestions that attendants should check the authenticity of the user and that warning signs should be put up. A compliance officer at the Registry of Motor Vehicles stated that the placards are being misused elsewhere, but technically in this instance, they are not breaking any rules because "its city policy". People use placards without taking a handicap spot. Dawn asked if the commission could contact the city council to set an ordinance but was informed that the Off Street Parking Board has jurisdiction. Mike Kennedy asked what the fine for an expired meter was. Rachael responded that the fine is \$10.00 and \$15.00 if the payment is late. Mike Galvin reminded members that meters are free after 6 p.m.

- iv. Polling Sites. Mike and Larry visited new polling sites. They reported that there may be some distraction in busy supermarkets but all sites are accessible.
- 4. Transition Plan, Accessibility and Access Board Issues. Mike Galvin asked that members to call or send him an e-mail to report any problems regarding pedestrian crossings and chirpers. A list will be made regarding all areas of interest.
- 5. Transportation and TPAG.
  - a. Accessible Taxi Reports. No complaints reported
  - b. TPAG Update. There was no June meeting. The proposed changes went into effect on July 1. There were only 2 Para-transit requests over the July 4 holiday. Fares will be increased, but not until public hearings are held.
- 6. Emergency Preparedness Update. A public announcement is expected sometime in September. Dawn questioned how the commission could

obtain statistics and data regarding people with disabilities. The Worcester Community Action Council was one suggestion.

7. Old Business.

a. Elections. Chair, Dawn Clark was nominated. Vice Chair, Rachael Brown was nominated. With no other nominees, with their acceptance, both were elected. Secretary, Jackie Norton was nominated, but declined. Mary Healey nominated Jill, second by John Cronin. Due to the absence of Jill, Rachael Brown made a motion to hold the election of Secretary until September, second by Mary Healey.

b. Fragrance Policy. Held.

8. New Business.

a. Rachael reported that cars often block the sidewalks at the UMass Memorial campus on Lake Ave. and that there is no signage regarding this issue. Mike Kennedy offered to look into this issue and the Valet Parking. Larry will investigate as well.

9. Announcements and Adjournment.

a. Mike Galvin announced that this was Mary Healy's last official meeting as a full member and that she can reapply in 3 months if she desires to. We all hope to see her at meetings regardless of status.

b. A suggestion was made that the Commission on Disabilities should have a site on the Worcester website, similar to other commissions. This would allow the public to review the minutes from the previous month.

c. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ms. Jacqueline Norton  
Secretary