

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

Present: Rachel Brown, Herbert Cramer, Deborah Malone, Steve Stolberg, Lynne Towler, Mary Healey, John Cronin

Absent: David Perry, Grace Clark

Guests: Jacqueline Norton, Mike Kennedy, Dave Johnson

Staff: Derek Brindisi, Christina Andreoli

1. Meeting called to Order at 4:05 PM. Motion to Accept the February Minutes as Amended Allowed.
2. Mary Healey suggested the use of a digital recorder for the meetings.
3. Snow Moratorium – Derek sought guidance from the City Solicitor on the City's obligation to remove snow from the sidewalks in light of the moratorium. According to the Solicitor, the City does not have an obligation to shovel the sidewalks and the law is now unclear as to whether it would be liable for injuries proximately caused by the negligent failure to clear a sidewalk of snow. Deborah Malone stated that snow is considered an obstruction which would violate the ADA. Rachel Brown stated this is an access issue and a public safety issue and the City shouldn't be looking at the least it can do in this circumstance. Rachel forwarded a letter outlining the Commission's concerns to the City Council and has not received a response. Mike Kennedy indicated that Mass AAB states that if you have something that is accessible, it must remain accessible. An example would be a lift; it doesn't mean you are compliant if it is not operating properly. Mike also cited that snow dumped in handicapped accessible parking spaces is of concern. Rachel would like to resolve this issue prior to the next snowfall. Derek will seek additional guidance from the Solicitor and DPW on bringing forth a recommendation to City Council in light of the moratorium.
4. The City has agreed to sponsor the Community Access Monitor Program Partnership with MOD to offer statewide training to government officials and disability advocates. The training will take place on Wednesday, May 18th and Thursday, May 19th. Venue has not been selected yet. The cost: \$15 advocates; \$85 for professionals. The Commission will provide information on how to enroll and their role at the next meeting.
5. ADA Transition Plan Meeting – Derek announced that ADA Compliance Training for City employees will take place on Friday, May 20th. He also

provided an update on the most recent workgroup meeting. Red Cross and David Clemons attended to provide an update on Emergency Shelters. A point person will be identified to ensure that the shelters are compliant. Herb Cramer suggested that JROTC be involved in emergencies to assist individuals with disabilities. Mike Kennedy offered CLW's assistance in assessing the shelters. The Red Cross will attend the April 5th ADA Transition Plan subgroup meeting.

6. Elections – Deborah recused herself. Rachel Brown stated that she has provided her personal comments and observations as a poll worker to the Elections Commission and City Clerk's Office and has not received a reply. She is concerned that these violations will not be addressed in time for the next election. Christina and Derek indicated that they are meeting with the City Clerk to identify additional solutions to assist individuals with disabilities, primarily with the AutoMark system. Christina stated that CLW had suggested an on-site advocate at polling locations to assist with set-up and use of the Automark. Rachel also cited that poll workers need to notify voters of the available accessible technology for voting.
7. Emergency Preparedness Registry – Commission suggested adding Elder Services, REDD, media outlets, CDCs, disabled veterans to the list of those receiving the information. Also, the Commission suggested that there be a print version for people to fill-out and mail-in.
8. AAB Updates – Mike Kennedy provided an update re: Summer Street, which was denied a variance request.
9. Rachel Brown read a letter received from Dawn Clark re: WRTA/ PBIS and functional assessments. The forms are insufficient. Rachel suggested an opt-in option for functional assessments. Deborah moved to support the use of a functional assessment in conjunction with other assessment tools. Motion to Approve. Steve S. will draft letter in support of the Commission's position.
10. Jacqueline Norton discussed technology for the Esther Howland Chamber, and what had originally been proposed for the Levi Lincoln Room, including portable microphones, closed captioning, etc. Rachel asked the Commission to review the Chamber and determine additional needs and then the Commission will compile a list.
11. Herb indicated that he would like to receive reports from Parking Enforcement relative to Handicapped Violations.

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager



CITY OF WORCESTER

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9th
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Esther Howland Chamber

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
2. Acceptance of February Minutes and Meeting Summary
3. New Business:
 - a. Commission Project List
 - b. Snow Moratorium Update
 - c. Community Access Monitor Training Update
 - d. ADA Compliance Training Update
4. Old Business:
 - a. Snow Removal
 - b. Elections Commission
 - c. Emergency Management Registry – Outreach Plan
 - d. Transition Plan, Accessibility, and Access Board Issues:
 - i. ADA Transition Plan Work Group Report
 - ii. AAB Updates
 - iii. Polling Location at Anna Maria College
 - iv. Transportation and TPAG
5. Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Director
6. Announcements and Adjournment
 - a. April Meeting – CitySquare Development Project
 - b. April Meeting – Green Hill Park Dam Project



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