

Commission on Disability Meeting
Minutes from Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Worcester Public Library – Banx Room
4:30PM

Attendance:

Members: Rachel Shannon Brown, Herbert Cremer, Deborah Malone, Charles Hiamah, Steve Stolberg, Pauline Piso, Lynn Towler

Member of the Public: Jackie Norton

Guests:

Jim DeLage, Wendy Steinhilber

Staff: Dawn E. Clark, Jayna Turchek

The meeting began with welcome from the chairperson and around the room introductions.

Minutes

The Chairperson asked to forgo the order of the agenda to allow the guests from the ADA Paratransit Service to present.

PBSI/ADA Paratransit Service

Wendy Steinhilber, Director and Jim Delage discussed the local service, including application process, service area, service limitation, as well as present and future projects for the WRTA. Some of these include the building of the “hub,” new fare boxes that will connect to other transit authorities using the Charlie Card, new buses, and the future of the automated callout system. Questions were asked and answered.

Introduction of New Staff:

Jayna Turchek, Director of Human Rights and Disabilities

Approval of the minutes: Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended, 3 in favor, one opposed. Motion carried. Jackie Norton asked if draft minutes could be emailed to her. Staff will check. Herb Cremer recommended that the agenda and minutes be posted on the website together. Staff will check.

Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Staff

- a. Correspondence and Intake Update –No correspondence this month. There were many intakes, but the numbers were not readily available since the office is in transition.
- b. Red Cab Update –Tabled until next month.
- c. DCU Center – The Commission has not heard from the City Manager’s Office regarding the drop-off area and the island.
- d. Temporary Event Accessibility Policy – sent to Assistant City Manager; no response as of the meeting.
- e. HP-Parking Enforcement – Received a response from the DPW. Second letter has not been sent pending approval of the City Manager. Director will follow up.
- f. Commission’s Status under the city charter – staff will explore. Herb mentioned that other Human Rights commissions help carry out the suggestions from the Commission on Disability. Jayna will invite Pam Callahan to a future meeting to explain the difference between advisory commissions and executive status.

Old Business and Updates

- a. John Street Church – Rachel Brown (chair) contacted Counselor Rivera. There was no formal petition brought forth concerning the inaccessible sidewalk, but she is supportive. Jayna will contact Commissioner Moylan and update next month.
- b. AAB Updates – no correspondence.
- c. Bullying Project Goal Planning & Update – Worcester School District has a policy. Herb mentioned that the Attorney General wants to hear about problems from parents. He also wants there to be concern about elders and people with disabilities. After discussion, the Commission decided to request for information from City Council. Herb recounted his history regarding the bullying project.

Member Updates and New Business

- a. Request to City Manager (to make a report to City Council re: the Commission, the Office and the City's Transition Plan) Staff will get information as to whether an annual report is needed.
- b. Director talked about things to come. If the Commission wants training or any other help, we should let Jayna know. There will be procedural and policy changes to enhance efficiency.

Next Meeting date: May 9 @ 4:30.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Malone, Secretary



Michael V.
O'Brien
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

Commission on Disability
Monthly Meeting – **Wednesday, April 18th, 2012**
4:30PM -6:30 PM
Location: Worcester Public Library, Banx Room
3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Introduction of new staff: Jayna Turchek**
- 3. Approval of March 14, 2012 Meeting Minutes**
- 4. Conversation about ADA Paratransit Services with Wendy J. Steinhilber, Director of PTM Brokerage Services, Inc.**
- 5. Communications and Reports: Chairperson and Staff**
 - a. Correspondence and Intake Update
 - b. Red Cab Update
 - c. DCU Center
 - d. Temporary Event Accessibility Policy
 - e. HP Parking Enforcement Letter to Police
 - f. Commission's Status under City Charter
- 6. Old Business and Updates**
 - a. John Street Church
 - b. AAB Updates
 - c. Bullying Project Goal Planning and Update



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7. Member Update and New Business

- a. Request to City Manager (to make a report to City Council re: the Commission, the Office, and the status of the City's Transition Plan)

8. Announcements and Adjournment

9. Items for Future Discussion:

- a. Library Accessibility
- b. Service Animal/Companion Animal Ordinance
- c. Goals for Fiscal Year 2013/Construction Project Wish List
- d. Friends of the Commission
- e. Transportation and TPAG
- f. ADA Transition Plan Update