



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:	January 14, 2009
Place Where Convened:	City Hall, Council Chamber
Members Present:	Rachel Brown, Dawn Clark, Grace Clark, John Cronin, Jacqueline Norton, Daphne Phillips
Associates Present:	Jill Swerzenski
Members Absent:	Joseph Sinasky
Staff Present:	Michael Galvin
Public Present:	Mary Healey, Mike Kennedy, Debbie Malone, Megan Webber

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.
2. Acceptance of Minutes. Motion to accept minutes for December 10, 2008 by Rachel Brown, seconded by John Cronin.
3. Communications and Reports.
 - a. Chairperson's Report.
 - i. Dawn Clark discussed the December ice storm and requested that Health and Human Services provide the Commission with a copy of their report of the storm and the City's handling. Discussion followed and it was noted that there are still slippery spots due to the ice and that transportation was difficult shuttling people from their homes to the respective shelters.
 - ii. Snow removal of the side walks was then discussed. It was requested that we obtain a report of the complaints to see if the new snow removal policy is being enforced as this ordinance went into effect on January 1, 2009. It was suggested that the

effective date may have been pushed back due to the ice storm, as it was not recommended to remove snow when debris was still present.

- b. Director's Report. As Larry Raymond was absent, no director's report was available.
- 4. Transition Plan, Accessibility, and Access Board Issues.
 - a. Updates on City and School Dept. There were no updates on the City and School Dept. during this Commission meeting. Dawn suggested that as this item has been on the agenda for some time that we may want to pursue this more aggressively as it was reported that several schools in Worcester may need to have their handicap accessibility improved. This was noticed when they were converted into shelters during the ice storm. It was suggested that as the stimulus package proposed by President-Elect Obama may help area schools; this may be a good time to push for better accessibility. Rachel Brown suggested that we pursue a public records request of the school's transition plans.
 - b. Sidewalks, Curb Cuts, and Chirpers.
 - i. List of Chirper Locations. No updates on when the list would be made available. Dawn stated that she would contact the appropriate parties to see if this list could be expedited, as this item has also been on the agenda for some time.
 - c. HP Parking Fines. There was no report this month.
 - d. Access Board. Mike Kennedy previously dispensed a report to the Commission via e-mail on January 13, 2009 regarding all AAB correspondence from May 2006 to present. Discussion briefly followed.
- 5. Transportation and TPAG
 - a. Buses and Para-transit. The Commission discussed the new transportation system under WRTA, specially the elimination of transfers, which became effective on January 1, 2009. It was noted that the elimination of transfers makes transportation more expensive and inconvenient. It was recommended that we request the statistics from TPAG comparing the month of January after the implementation of the new system to the month prior.

- b. Taxicab Statistics. There was no report for this month.
- 6. Emergency Preparedness
 - a. Local Registry. The Commission was anxious to get the Local Registry up and running, especially due to the recent ice storm.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Federal Square Plaza Renovation. There were no updates regarding the park benches and whether they will be replaced as no contract as been awarded yet for a design consultant.
 - b. City Hall Plaza Renovation. No updates.
 - c. UMASS Valet Parking. There were no updates, however, Larry continues to be in contact with representatives from UMASS.
 - d. Office Move. The Commission was informed that Health & Human Services, which includes the Office on Disabilities, will be moving from 25 Meade Street to City Hall. The move date and exact location is still not definite.
- 8. New Business. No items were on the agenda.
- 9. Announcements and Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ms. Jill A. Swerzenski
Secretary