

Commission on Disability Meeting
Minutes for December 20th, 2016, 4:30PM
Worcester City Hall, Levi Lincoln Chamber,
Room 309, 3rd Flr.

(Videotape of this meeting can be found on the City of Worcester's Website
at <http://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?PGD=worcema&eId=735>)

Attendance:

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

Members Absent: Paul Keister

Staff: Jayna Turchek, Joseph Sancoucy, Dawn E. Clark

Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions

Chairperson Garr-Colzie called meeting to order and Commissioners introduced themselves.

Approval of November 15th, 2016 Minutes

Commissioner Prochilo moved to approve the November 15th, 2016 minutes as written.
Commissioner Bilotta seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Review of Worcester Common Sidewalk AAB Variance Request

Inspector Joseph Sancoucy shared that the recent construction of sidewalks and curb cuts surrounding Worcester Common requires a variance from the Architectural Access Board (AAB) which requires curb cuts to be at a 2% slope. Some of the curb cuts are 3% and others are at 4%. There is a steeper cross slope at the base of the back door of City Hall. Assistant Commissioner of Parks, Robert Antonelli, informed the Commission that the contractor the city hired will be sending in the variance application with the measurements of the sidewalk and perimeter of the Common.

New England Hemophilia Association (NEHA) request for use of Union Station:

Representatives from NEHA presented information about the Association and hemophilia as they requested use of Union Station free of charge for their 60th Year Gala. The Worcester location was chosen for two reasons: central location for New England and the Association's office is located in Worcester.

Founded in 1957, NEHA serves individuals and families with inherited bleeding disorders, who need information, emotional support and an organization to voice their needs and concerns.

The bleeding disorders community suffered devastating losses in the 1980's and 1990's due to the contamination of factor concentrates with HIV and hepatitis C. They reported their small community was robbed of an entire generation. Today many families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and many also are living with the debilitating effects of these two diseases or the medications used to treat them. Thankfully, the younger generation of children with bleeding disorders has a different future with safe and improved treatments for hemophilia and von

Willebrand disease. In fact, studies show that children born between 2001 and 2011 are expected to have the same life expectancy as those without bleeding disorders.

There are 20,000 people in the United States, 1000 people in Massachusetts and 500 in the Worcester area living with hemophilia.

Some facts shared included:

- Missing a clotting protein called factor
- Medication is through intravenous (IV)
- There is no cure
- Bleeds longer, not faster
- Yearly treatment costs \$35,000 +

The Commission granted permission to use Union Station and they hope to hold their gala either on Saturday, November 4th or Saturday, November 18th, 2017. Commissioner Cremer made a motion to approve the use of Union Station for the Hemophilia Association Gala. All approved.

The Commission thanked the group for their hard work and wished them well with the gala. The Commission was thanked for their permission to use Union Station.

Review and vote on the Commission's 2016 Emergency Preparedness Priorities

The Commissioner's rated their individual priorities as follows:

Commissioners' Rankings

Abbey Bureau Bilotta Cremer Garr- Keister Myska Prochilo Russell Silva

Colzie

1	1b	3b	1e	1b	1c	N/A	3b	1a	1b	2c
2	1c	1c	2d	1f	1e		3a	1d	2a	2e
3	2a	1d	1d	1a	2b		1c	1e	2b	3b
4	2b	1e	2b	1e	3a		1d	1f	2d	3a
5	3b	2e	2e	1d	3b		2d	2a	2e	1c

The Commission voted to approve and forward its recommendations of five priorities for its 2016 Emergency Preparedness to Director Fiske at the Department of Emergency Communications as follows:

ADA Self-Study Recommendations	Priorities
Emergency Preparedness, Evacuation Plans, and Emergency Shelters	
1b. Designated MEMA and FEMA shelters such as schools that may lack backup power for elevators and refrigeration	3th Priority
1c. Develop evacuation plans for each City public facility	1st Priority
1d. Engage the National Fire Protect Association (NFPA) for evacuation training, guidance on evacuation chairs and their location in each facility	5rd Priority
1e. Acquire evacuation chairs and locating in stairwells in public facilities	2nd Priority

Emergency Management (28 CFR 35.149)	
<p>3b. Train emergency managers, shelter operators, and shelter employees and volunteers on the requirement to reasonably modify policies, practices, and procedures for qualified individuals with disabilities. For instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a “no pets” policy should be modified to allow an individual with a disability to be accompanied by a service animal in a shelter • modify kitchen access policies for individuals who may need access to food for medical reasons (such as individuals with diabetes); the needs of individuals who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. • Include preparations to provide effective communication to individuals with disabilities as part of the City’s advance planning. • Train Emergency Management personnel on the current best practices for Title II entities recommended by the US Department of Justice 	4th Priority

Commissioner Prochilo moved to approve the Commission’s 2016 Emergency Preparedness Priorities and forward them to the Director of Emergency Communications Department. Commissioner Abbey seconded the motion. All approved.

Commissioner Bilotta noted that these priorities did not address the needs related to individuals with Deafness or Hard of Hearing and strongly encouraged the Commission to consider these needs next year.

Presentation and Review of Park Master Plans and upcoming construction (Asst. Commissioner Robert Antonelli)

Mr. Antonelli presented information on the following parks:

Master Plans:

- Institute Park Walkways
- Rectangular Sports Field Feasibility Study

Construction Improvements:

- Betty Price Playground LWCF Grant
- Blackstone Gateway Park
- Castle Park
- Elm Park
- Glodis Field
- Green Hill Park Golf Course
- Green hill Park Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Newton Hill
- Playground Resurfacing – PARC Grant

Reflections from the Mass DOT Hearing for the Main Street 75% plan review (Elizabeth Myska)

Background: A year ago there was a 25% review of this plan at the Worcester Public Library with approximately 75-100 people from the public voicing their concerns and suggestions. Over the course of the year, State Representative Mary Keefe, who represents this area, gathered a meeting of stakeholders including business and neighborhood representatives. There was also a meeting at Mechanics Hall in September with business people including the City Manager.

Discussed at 75% hearing:

- The two tiered sidewalks and parking spaces that would be impacted have been reduced by roughly 50% since the 25% plan review hearing.
- Concerns were raised around tripping caused by the stamped brick and pavers and maintenance.
- Last year City Councilor Economou petitioned the Council about citywide signal issues that would assist the visually impaired. He spoke at this hearing as well to support the need for careful planning for those who are visually impaired.
- Councilor Bergman suggested construction might take place at night so as to impose minimal interference with access to businesses and travel along Main Street.

Commissioner Myska noted there is a sense that over time, the state and city have been more receptive to people's concern. There will be more bump outs and plantings.

Commissioner Myska recommended that while issues were being listened to, the Commission needs to be vigilant with respect to the needs of people with disabilities.

Update from Red Cab regarding replacement of accessible van

In November Cab #109 was totaled due to an accident. A replacement Grand Dodge Caravan, higher and wider than the former, has been purchased by Red Cab. The vehicle is in Worcester waiting to be retrofitted with appropriate equipment. The holiday season may delay this process; however the replacement cab is soon to be ready to provide the transportation service for people with disabilities.

Review of AAB notices and applications: City properties in bold

Correspondence

- 222 Harrington Way, Docket #C14 131

Decision of the Board

- 42 Quinsigamond Street, Docket #V16 312
- 6 Brussels Street, Docket #V16 329*

*An additional variance application is pending and Doug Vogel requested the Commission's support. The AAB is suggesting that the petitioner work to make the first floor of 6 Brussels Street accessible (a variance for the building itself) before moving to the second floor as originally proposed filling the retail spaces with revenue flow to make the second floor accessible. With the petitioner agreeable to this option the Commission wholeheartedly supported the petitioner's variance request for a time

variance of two years for there would be more accessible units for businesses to thrive and customers to shop. The original variance for the Salon business has been provisionally granted depending on the outcome of this second variance to which is being presented at this meeting.

- 137 (119) Belmont Street, Docket # V16 330
- **455 Main Street, Docket # V16 332**
(Sidewalks surrounding the City Hall block)

Suggestions for upcoming agenda items

- Presentation about service animals

Announcements:

- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting**
January 18th, 2017, 1-2:30pm, WRTA HUB, 60 Foster Street
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled)** February 7th, 2017, 4:00 – 5:30PM, YWCA, Members Lounge
- **Audio Journal, Accent on Ability Radio Program:** January 10th, 2017, 5-6pm, <http://www.audiojournal.net/>
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** January 16th, 2017 4:30pm
- **Emergency Preparedness Meeting:** May 10th, 2017 8:30 am, 2 Coppage Drive

Emergency Preparedness Tip:

- Pack an emergency “Go Pack” with essential life-saving items and store several gallons of water/person at home. Click here for a list of items and other helpful tips: <https://www.ready.gov/>
- People with disabilities may want to consider having several gallon containers of water per person at home for emergencies.
- Fill plastic containers with water and keep in your freezer. If the power goes out it will help to keep food cool. As it melts you will also have potable water.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned.