

**Commission on Disability Meeting**  
Minutes for September 17th, 2019, 4:30PM  
Levi Lincoln Chamber, Worcester City Hall, 455 Main Street

**Attendance:**

**Members Present:** Robert Bureau, Nancy Garr-Colzie, Fitzroy Hall, Dee Karuna (late), Elizabeth Myska, Joseph Prochilo, Stephen Stolberg, Lindsey Silva

**Members Absent:** Robert Bilotta, Paul Keister

**Staff:** Jayna Turчек, Dawn E. Clark

**Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Bureau called the meeting to order. Commissioners introduced themselves. Associate Commissioners Fitzroy Hall and Stephen Stolberg were raised to full members for the meeting.

**Approval of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes**

Commissioner Silva moved to accept the August 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Commissioner Garr-Colzie seconded. All approved.

**Red Cab Accessible Vans Update \***

Director Turчек reported that just after the last meeting owner of Red Cab, Toni Donovan, told her that she had replaced accessible cab 109 which was the cab the Commission had voted to recall the medallion in May. She shared a picture of the side entrance cab which is now on the street.

Accessible cab 110 has been off line since late April/early May. Ms. Donovan called her and said next week she will be looking at a gently used rear entrance vehicle in Connecticut and if suitable she intends to purchase it. If she does purchase this will replace cab 110 and this information will be brought to the October meeting.

**Conversation on School Committee Candidates Forum versus Questionnaire**

The Commission still does not have a site for a forum. A questionnaire would work using the questions approved in August. A benefit would be to have responses to all the questions. There is the Office email list and Facebook to distribute the responses.

Question was asked for how these responses would be distributed to visually impaired and non-speaking persons. There was a suggestion that Audio Journal could read and broadcast. Suggestion of having an audio file on website. Staff would have to check about the feasibility.

Best case scenario for time line would be if questions were sent out tomorrow to the candidates and they are given two weeks to respond, the responses could be published in time for distribution prior to elections.

Commissioner Silva made a motion to move forward with the questionnaire and process discussed, Commissioner Garr-Colzie seconded the motion. All approved.

### **Review of FY19 annual report and FY20 goals**

The Commission began the process of suggesting goals for FY'20 last month as follows:

1. Transportation Initiatives and On-Demand Service that is available, accessible and affordable.
2. Review and follow WooSox Stadium for accessibility
3. Complete assessing accessibility of Shrewsbury Street restaurants and develop guide book for city restaurants
4. Continue Visually Impaired mobility walks and restaurant review

The Chairperson asked if there were other suggestions.

A suggestion was made to broaden goal 4 to continue all mobility walks.

The following Commissioners are point people for the goals:

Wheelchair Strolls – Joseph Prochilo

White Cane walks – Elizabeth Myska  
Restaurant accessibility – Joseph Prochilo  
Woosox Stadium accessibility – Robert Bureau  
Transportation – Nancy Garr-Colzie and Steve Stolberg

Commissioner Prochilo move to accept the modified goals as discussed.  
Commissioner Silva Seconded. All approved.

### **Election of Officers**

Full members were eligible to hold office. Associate members who were raised to full member for the meeting could vote.

Commissioner Robert Bureau was nominated for the position of Chairperson and he accepted the nomination. Commissioner Joseph Prochilo was nominated and accepted for the position of Vice Chairperson. They each explained their interest in the position.

Commissioner Bureau was elected Chairperson unanimously with 7 yes votes. Commissioner Prochilo was then elected Vice Chairperson unanimously with 7 yes votes.

### **Notice of September wheelchair strolls (September 16<sup>th</sup> & 23)**

The September 16<sup>th</sup> stroll began on the corner of Park Avenue and Maywood Street and continued down to Beaver Street and then followed Beaver Street to Main Street. Along the way were the usual impediments of the sidewalks including tree roots, non-aligning curb cuts with crosswalks, polls and fire hydrants, and cars blocking the sidewalks.

Issues list will be sent to the Commission members and DPW.

The September 24<sup>th</sup> stroll from 1-3pm will be in the Canal district on Harding and Water Streets. Water Street is the ideal of how a street should be laid out. Harding Street will be a challenge. Issues list will be sent out to participants in the next few days.

## **Notice of planning for White Cane Day (October 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 –noon)**

Commissioner Myska reported: Usually the walk is planned the day before in places with public amenities like Main Street, the library, etc. The past two years the walk has ended at the library. This year the library is under construction so Union Station will be the starting and ending place. Last year we had exhibitors and attracted about 75 people this year there is no plan for exhibitors.

This year the walk will be limited to dignitaries along with their sighted guide and third year optometry students. Each group will do the same trail.

The public is invited to hear the debrief which will take place when all the groups are back 11:15 – noon. The dignitaries remain blindfolded during the debrief. The audience is asked to ask questions. She asked the Commission members to come if possible and generate questions.

## **Planning call for ADA 30 Anniversary commemoration**

The thought is that this would take place next summer. Director Turchek gave a summary of the 25<sup>th</sup> ADA Celebration. Union Station Grand Hall was used. A nine month planning process took place with about 30 – 40 agencies and a number of working committees. Elements of the program included exhibitors, entertainment and food. There is no budget for this event. Seven Hills was the fiscal agent. The budget was about \$10,000.

The office has files that can be made available to the Commission as they consider plans for the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration event.

Commissioner Stolberg would like to see the event be about the consumer and how the ADA changed lives rather than about the agencies, have entertainment, something to eat and enjoy it. Commissioner Garr-Colzie went to the abilities expo this past weekend that was vender driven. She understands what Steve is saying and is trying to find a balance. This could be a way to educate people using a past, present future theme.

Commissioners Hall, Garr-Colzie, Stolberg and Bureau are interested in generating ideas and a plan for the 30<sup>th</sup> celebration. The Commission agreed to keep this item on the Commission's agenda.

**Review of AAB notices and applications:** No City properties

Variance Application

- 16 Norwich Street, Docket # TBD

Decision of the Board

- 155 Ararat Street, Docket # V19 035
- 100 Institute Road, Docket # V19 207
- 100 Institute Road, Docket # V19 223

**Announcements:**

- **WRTA Transportation Planning Advisory Meeting September 18<sup>th</sup>** , 2019, 1-2:30pm, Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- **REDD (Rights, Equality and Dignity for the Disabled) October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**, 4:00 – 5:30pm, Easter Seals Conference Room(6<sup>th</sup> Fl.), 484 Main Street
- **Audio Journal, Accent on Ability Radio Program: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, 5-6pm, <http://www.audiojournal.net/>
- **Emergency Preparedness Meeting:** October 11, 2019 at 11:00am at 2 Coppage Drive.
- **Next Commission on Disability meeting:** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 4:30pm

Commission requested that medication(s) be Included in the "Go Pack" under emergency Tip on the agenda.

**Adjournment:**

Adjourned – 5:44pm

\*Material can be viewed at the Office of Human Rights & Disabilities during normal business hours.