



City of New Bedford
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

To: Linda M. Morad
City Council President

From: Cynthia Wallquist
Executive Director

Date: 11/10/16

Re: Minutes

On behalf of the Commission's Acting Secretary, Martha Bouchard, I am submitting minutes of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities meeting held on September 21, 2016 that were adopted at the November 9 meeting of the Commission.

Cynthia J. Wallquist

Attachments

Cc: City Clerk
D. DeMarinis
MIS



Minutes
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
September 21, 2016

Members Present

Jaunna Adesso
Josh Amaral
Martha Bouchard
Pam Cole
Dennis DeMarinis
Marsha Fernandes
Brooke Miller

Others in Attendance

Claudia Alves, People Inc.
BG Shanklin, Architect
Maria Tomasia, Elections
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Dir.

Excused

Kim Bettencourt

Dennis DeMarinis, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 6:30 PM. For anyone who had not heard, Dennis shared that John Tyson passed away in August but we were notified about the arrangements in time to attend. The members of the Commission said they will contribute toward a brick in his memory @ Buttonwood Park.

Minutes

Josh Amaral moved to accept the July 26 meeting minutes; seconded by Marsha Fernandes. Motion carried.

Guest Presenters

Maria Tomasia (Elections) briefed the Commission on:

- Early voting (Oct. 24-Nov. 4; 8AM-8PM weekdays; 8-2 Saturdays and 11-3 Sundays. It will take place in City Hall as well as Wilks and Howland Green Libraries.
- Martha Bouchard stated that she is still having problems having poll workers offer Auto Mark assistance; she votes @ Carney Academy.
- Fire Station #5. Brooke said there is no handicapped parking at that location where she votes and that the booth doesn't have enough room to accommodate a wheelchair. Previous sites were discussed; Pam said she will call Our Lady of Fatima priest to ask if that site could be made available again; Dennis will send a letter to the Archdiocese with that request as well. BG stated that it is a relatively simple fix to make the accommodations for the upcoming election and will find out if Election Day is one of the "rolling closures" dates which would make it easier to provide access through the truck bay(s). Maria was hoping Professional Development day could be scheduled next year on Election Day so there would be access to Pulaski School.

Claudia Alves (People Inc.) discussed:

Recruiting homeowners/tenants for shared living opportunities for people with disabilities. The clients are referred by DDS or Mass Health; caregivers receive \$9000-\$60,000 annually for agreeing to be caregivers. Participants are restricted to 1 individual per household and must have own bedroom. Extended family, co-workers and friends are eligible as well; as of now, she is looking to place 90 clients. Screening involves medical and psychiatric screenings. She is reaching out to Spanish and Portuguese speakers and PCA's. Training is provided, including First Aid, CPR and case management. Nursing teams are available 24/7 and respite hours are covered. Transportation to "day hab" and extended day services are provided. She is also recruiting homes for adult foster care and respite placements.

Architect's Report

BG Shanklin reported that he

- met with the School Dept. Business Manager and will present at the Facilities Subcommittee
- called MOD about the rumors of Transition Plan funding but has not heard back
- met with Bethel AME; the church is looking for an architect to do plans for the elevator
- surveyed the downtown and the number of handicapped parking spaces does not meet ADA requirements. Regulations require 2% of spaces be designated HP; there would be 24 out of the 1300. New regulations will be issued soon requiring 4% of spaces be designated as such.
- saw a sign for handicapped entrance at Seamen's Bethel, but there is no handicapped parking space
- BCC needs to write to the Traffic Commission about the request to add handicapped parking space for the students/faculty
- Met with the Mt. Vernon Group about Noah's Playground and recommended moving the location of the swings
- had provided a designed for Brooklawn ADA improvements to Deb Lee; the work done by the Mount Vernon Group did not match that at all
- Me & Ed's is non-compliant

Brooke said the door handles at NBHS were changed but there are still no accommodations at the elevator, no lowered buzzer at the main door for wheelchair users and that a knob change is needed at the Nurse's Office.

BG reported that there is an Age-Friendly Cities meeting 9/27 and the survey results will be discussed.

Marsha moved to accept the architect's report; seconded by Josh. Motion carried.

Chair's Report

- ADA Training for City Departments will be held Sept. 29

- Dennis was in contact with Council President Morad about the Commission's agenda for the year
- The wheelchair beach mats have been delivered; Mary Rapoza will be invited back to discuss beach access

Josh moved to accept the Chair's report; Jaunna seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Cynthia reported that the ad for Clear Path Snow Removal will run next Sunday; there are approximate 60 slots... 16 from the Commission. The Fresh Start team continues to meet monthly; there were 34 active cases this month and "2 pages" of furniture requests and 2 pages of donations.

Josh moved to accept the Chair's report; Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Josh moved to approve the by-laws revisions as presented at the July meeting; Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements

Dennis reminded everyone that there will be no October meeting

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Josh and seconded by Martha. The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Acting Secretary