



City of New Bedford
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

MEMORANDUM

To: Joseph P. Lopes
City Council President

From: Cynthia Wallquist
Executive Director

Date: 9/29/17

Re: Minutes

On behalf of the Commission's Clerk, Josh Amaral, I am submitting minutes of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities meeting held on June 28, 2017; they were adopted at the September 26, 2017 Commission meeting.

Attachment

Cc: J. Amaral
City Clerk
D. DeMarinis
MIS



City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Minutes Commission for Citizens with Disabilities June 28, 2017

Members Present

Jaunna Adesso
Josh Amaral
Martha Bouchard
Linda Carreiro
Pam Cole
Dennis DeMarinis
Marsha Fernandes

Others in Attendance

Melissa Branco
BG Shanklin, Architect
Cynthia Wallquist, Exec. Dir.
Corinn Cabral, DDS

Dennis DeMarinis, Chair, called the meeting to order @ 6:31 PM.

Minutes

Martha Bouchard moved to accept the May 10, 2017 meeting minutes; seconded by Rev. Pam Cole. Motion carried.

New Business

For the Election of Officers, Chairperson Mr. DeMarinis Jr. presented a proposed slate of nominees for 2018:

- Den DeMarinis, Jr, Chairperson
- Martha Bouchard, Vice Chair
- Joshua Amaral, Clerk
- Marsha Fernandes, Treasurer

Rev. Cole moved to instruct the Secretary to cast one vote in favor of the proposed slate of officers. Ms. Bouchard seconded. Rev. Cole asked what the duties of the treasurer are. Ms. Wallquist explained that the Treasurer's responsibilities are limited as the Commission has no independent funds; however, that position would assist in record-keeping for any projects undertaken by the Commission, such as the wheelchair-accessible playground @ Buttonwood Park. The motion carried. The nominated slate of officers was confirmed for 2018.

In discussion of FY18 projects and services, Ms. Wallquist outlined the Commission's budget, which was level-funded in the City budget. Prior to discussion specific to his contract, BG Shanklin left the room. Ms. Wallquist recommended the Commission continue to contract with consultant architect, Mr. Shanklin, in the amount of \$9500 in 2018. Ms. Bouchard made a motion to that effect, seconded by Ms. Adesso. Mr. Shanklin re-entered the room shortly thereafter. Ms. Wallquist mentioned the snow removal program is supported with funds from grants and other programs that are not under the Commission's purview, recommended \$4000

from the Commission and that the amount be voted on at the next meeting, when there is hopefully a clearer understanding of funds available from those other sources.

Chairperson's Report

Mr. DeMarinis provided a summary of a recent meeting of the Traffic Commission that he attended and he testified in favor of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities request to the Traffic Commission to increase fines for handicapped parking violations from \$100 to \$200. This request was voted down by the Traffic Commission, with commissioners citing a lack of provided information and a hesitance to impose increased fees. Mr. Amaral suggested the Commission revisit this with another submission along with more information from the Parking Clerk.

Architect's Report

BG Shanklin outlined ongoing communication with the New Bedford Housing Authority (NBHA) regarding an ongoing handicapped parking/access issue on Hillman Street. The Associate City Solicitor was notified by an attorney representing NBHA that their position is that the denial of an on-street handicapped parking space at Hillman Street would be unfair, as the city has granted on-street handicapped parking spaces elsewhere in the city. Mr. Shanklin advised that no further Commission action is necessary at this time as the matter is up to the Traffic Commission/City Solicitors for resolution.

Mr. Shanklin provided an update on a recent visit to Our Lady of Fatima parish to determine if it would be a feasible polling place. He determined the building is not accessible, but is likely a better alternative than Fire Station #5. Mr. Shanklin also visited an art gallery at 22 Centre St and determined that the ramp in rear of the building is suitable.

Mr. Shanklin is now the co-chair of the *Livable Cities/Age Friendly Housing Domain Subcommittee* and will work with other committees that are part of that initiative.

Mr. Shanklin reported that most of the month had been spent working on the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) Transition Plan Grant proposal. There are two possible grant opportunities: one for FY17 and one for FY18. Municipalities and some other entities can apply for transition planning grants and for project grants. The requirements and application have changed since the Commission was last briefed. His recommendation is that the Commission/city does not apply for FY17 but instead apply for FY18 which can be submitted starting July 10th. Mr. Shanklin recommended we submit for a Transition Plan to be updated by this Committee and himself. He was informed that such a plan must only include buildings the city owns, not buildings that the city rents, which he estimates to be about 110 buildings in all. The Commission would have to prioritize buildings by impact in order to later inform our recommendation of which buildings should be fixed first. Mr. Shanklin will work with city partners in doing that, especially to identify buildings that are planned to be decommissioned in the near future. Mr. Shanklin anticipates compiling such a plan would take five hours per building. With the help of this committee, he anticipates a total cost of about \$30,000. Mr. Amaral made a motion authorizing ADA Coordinator Deb Lee to submit a request on behalf of the Commission to the Massachusetts Office of Disability for \$30,000 to work on a Transition Plan. Ms. Bouchard seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Bouchard moved to accept the Architect's Report; Rev. Cole seconded. The motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Wallquist informed the Commission the city finally received \$8,000 in FEMA money to reimburse the Commission for playground repairs that were necessary after Hurricane Sandy. The Commission can request this money to be transferred into its account during the next year. Ms. Wallquist advised there is no snow removal to report and that the Request for Proposals for FY18 will go out at the end of September. Ms. Wallquist summarized that sixty people were served last year. Four of them have passed away or moved away. She anticipates 30-35 slots to be offered again next year.

Rev. Cole made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report; Ms. Bouchard seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business

- Ms. Wallquist updated the Commission on actions taken regarding a complaint received on Roosevelt Apartments.
- As of June 1, there are two Commission vacancies.
- Ms. Wallquist explained the full Commission doesn't have to meet over the summer, but there will likely be smaller workgroup meetings to discuss the Transition Plan Grant.
- The FY18 Meeting Schedule is: Sep. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, Jun. 19, all at 6:30 PM in the Ashley Room.

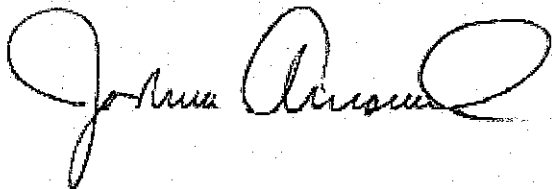
Other Business

Rev. Cole advised the Commission that BCC has not yet submitted a letter regarding downtown parking.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bouchard and seconded by Mr. Amaral. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Amaral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Clerk