

Accepted 10/11/12

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, September 13, 2012

51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:40pm

Present:

Members: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clover, Sandy Durmaskin, JoAnn Haas, Alissa Land, Bet MacArthur, and Dave Wood.

Alternates: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Eileen Keegan Bongiorno, Naomi Pinson, and Kathy Watkins.

Guests: Superintendent Chris Burke, Cambridge Police Department; and Jayna Turchek, Worcester Human Rights and Disabilities.

Documents Used:

- Minutes from July 12, 2012 CCPD Meeting
- DRAFT flyer for October Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

Minutes: A motion to approve the July 12, 2012 minutes was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report:

October Employment Event Planning:

Elizabeth Dean-Clover reported that the October Disability Employment Awareness Month event will be held on Wednesday, October 17 from 5:30-8pm at Cambridge Main Library. It will include a panel of experts moderated by Oz Mondejar of Partners Continuing Care.

There was discussion about increasing employer attendance at the event. Ideas for places to publicize/reach out to included the Community Development Department, Chamber of Commerce, Consumers' Council, Cambridge Business Associations, Cambridge Local First, and the Cambridge Office on Workforce Development.

Kate Thurman reminded those in attendance to email her [kthurman@cambridgema.gov] with suggestions for materials and resources for attendees to take with them after the event. There will be electronic copies available of all handouts at the event.

Ballot Question/Update from Law Department

Ms. Dean-Clover reported that the City Solicitor's Office determined that CCPD is allowed to take a position on the assisted suicide ballot initiative (ballot question #2).

Bet MacArthur made a motion for the Commission to vote that it is appropriate for the Commission to take a position on the ballot question #2. Five members voted to pass the motion, one member abstained, and there were zero votes in opposition to the motion. Thus, the motion was passed.

Alissa Land made a motion that CCPD vote to oppose the ballot initiative known as question 2 because of its potential negative impact on people with disabilities. The motion was seconded by Sandy Durmaskin. Six members voted in favor of the motion and one member abstained. Thus, the motion was passed.

Ms. MacArthur, JoAnn Haas, Sandy Durmaskin and Michael Muehe volunteered to draft an article for the AccessLetter.

Police Community Liaison Update: Superintendent Chris Burke reported being in touch with Michael Muehe about the revised ADA 2010 revisions with respect to service animals in order to be sure that the Police Department's service animal policy was up to date. He also met with their legal advisor, who revised the policy to clarify the following: that business owners may only ask two questions: 1. Is the animal required for a disability? and 2. What tasks is the animal trained to perform? The updated policy will be implemented once Michael Muehe has had an opportunity to review it.

Superintendent Burke reported asking the Police Communications Director to help in getting out the message about the new bicycle parking regulations. Sergeant Kathy Murphy will also work on getting the message out. He also spoke with Vinny Best of DPW about involving another department in assisting with enforcement, and plans to speak with the director of the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Dept. (TPT) about the possibility of finding a role for the Parking Control Officers to play with respect to bicycle parking enforcement.

Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues: Joann Haas reported that Cambridge bicyclists can go to the Police station to register their bicycles. She also said that both Harvard and MIT are offering bike registration and have agreed to distribute the bicycle parking flyer to students at registration. Hubway is also aware of the problem and posted it on their webpage.

Ms. Haas reminded members that Kara Falise of DPW offered to tweet messages for CCPD on Twitter. There was also talk of a draft press release and getting it on the TPT website.

Snow & Ice

Ms. Haas reported that representatives of DPW, TPT, and the Cambridge Post Office will meet on October 4 at 12:30pm in the 4th floor conference room of 344 Broadway to discuss snow & ice remove protocols, the Adopt a Sidewalk program, Best Shoveled Sidewalk Contest, etc.

Disability Reframed: Bet MacArthur reported that it was announced at the July 26 ADA Day in Boston that CCPD and the Boston Commission will be partnering on the film series. A screening of *Life. Support. Music.* will be held in Dorchester at the end of October. Ms. MacArthur reminded members to join the Disability Reframed Facebook page. Michael Muehe mentioned that former CCPD member Erin Gullage has agreed to be an administrator of the Facebook page.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Muehe reported that Joanna Berton Martinez continues to work on the service dog public service announcement, which is directed toward business owners.

He also reported that the annual convention that was formerly known as Build Boston has been renamed Architecture Boston Expo (ABX), which will be held November 14-16. Mr. Muehe has been involved with the development of an exhibit demonstrating examples of accessible design and almost but not quite accessible design. There will be wheelchairs for people to try out both designs. Admission to the exhibit hall is free for people who register by October 15. For more information, see <www.abexpo.com>.

Mr. Muehe reported that Colleen Johnston, Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, which enforces the City's Human Rights Ordinance, will be leaving her position soon.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman said that CCPD hosted a very successful Community Access Monitor Training. While the MA Office on Disability provided the training, CCPD staff provided the space and coordinated registration, catering and other logistics.

She reported fielding a call during the primary election on September 6 with a complaint about an access issue at the Baldwin School polling location. The elevator going from the main floor downstairs to the polling place was not working. The issue was resolved by implementing the contingency plan – placing a poll worker outside the front doors, informing people of the broken elevator and offering three options for accessible voting: to have a ballot and secrecy sleeve brought upstairs to them; to vote at City Hall; or to come back once the elevator was repaired. The elevator was repaired and working in the early afternoon on Election Day.

She reported meeting with Mr. Muehe and Jackie Phillips, the City's Director of Training, to discuss trainings on disability related issues for City employees during the month of October. Three programs have been put together: *Meeting Your Staffing Needs through a Win-Win Partnership*; *"Hear" the World: A Snapshot of the Deaf Experience*; and *All About Service Animals*.

Lastly, the Department of Human Service Programs now has a new website, and the CCPD page can be found at <www.cambridgema.gov/ccpd>. Ms. Thurman will be trained on how to add content and will no longer have to go through another person to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator