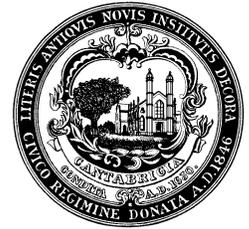


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Elizabeth Dean-Clower  
*Chair*

The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday April 11, at 5:30 p.m.

JoAnn Haas  
*Secretary*

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM**

## AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

**NOTE: CCPD meetings are audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.**

Miriam Cooper  
Sandy Durmaskin  
Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
Alissa Land  
Bet MacArthur  
Naomi Pinson  
Kathy Watkins  
Dave Wood

Michael Muehe  
*Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman  
*Project Coordinator*

Oscar Anderson  
Joanna Berton Martinez  
*Pro Bono Associates*

- |  |         |                        |
|--|---------|------------------------|
| 1. Introductions   | 2 min.  |                        |
| 2. Approval of Minutes for March 14                              | 2 min.  |                        |
| 3. Announcements   | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / board     |
| 4. Update on Public Service Announcements                        | 10 min. | Joanna Berton Martinez |
| 5. Chair's Report  | 15 min. | Elizabeth Dean-Clower  |
| <i>Nominations &amp; Elections</i>                               |         |                        |
| <i>Other Updates</i>   |         |                        |
| 6. Guest Speaker: Laura Brelsford                                | 15 min. |                        |
| <i>Deputy Director, Dept. of System-Wide Accessibility, MBTA</i> |         |                        |
| <i>MBTA Updates</i>  |         |                        |
| <i>Possible MBTA Fare Increases</i>                              |         |                        |
| 7. Police Community Liaison Update                               | 10 min. | Chris Burke            |
| <i>Update on Enforcement of Bicycle Traffic Regulations</i>      |         |                        |
| 8. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues                         | 5 min.  | JoAnn Haas             |
| 9. Disability Reframed Film Series                               | 5 min.  | Bet MacArthur          |
| 10. Executive Director's Report                                  | 5 min.  | Michael Muehe          |
| 11. Project Coordinator's Report                                 | 5 min.  | Kate Thurman           |
| 12. Public Input   | 3 min.  | general public         |
| 13. Old Business   | 2 min.  |                        |
| 14. New Business   | 2 min.  |                        |

This is a scent-free meeting. In consideration of individuals with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from wearing perfume, after-shave or any other scented products to our meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cambridge, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.



**Approved 5/09/13**

**Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)**

Minutes for Thursday, April 11, 2013

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:36pm

**Present:**

Members: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clover, JoAnn Haas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Alissa Land, Bet MacArthur, Naomi Pinson, and Dave Wood.

Staff/volunteers: Joanna Berton Martinez, Michael Muehe, and Kate Thurman.

Absent: Sandy Durmaskin, and Kathy Watkins.

Guests: Laura Brelsford, MBTA; Superintendent Christopher Burke, Cambridge Police Department; Tom Fletcher, Cambridge Resident; Milissa Garside, Cambridge Resident; and Susan Manning, Cambridge Resident.

**Documents Used:**

- Agenda for April 11, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from March 14, 2013 CCPD Meeting

**Minutes:** A motion to amend the March 14, 2013 minutes as follows was seconded and passed:

- Remove Sandy Durmaskin from Members Present
- Change GBLS to Greater Boston Legal Services

**Update on Public Service Announcements:** Michael Muehe said that CCPD won an Organization of the Year Award from Cambridge Community Television (CCTV).

Joanna Berton Martinez played three new PSAs: "Please Don't Pet My Service Animal," "Is Your Dog a Service Animal?" and "Shovel the Corners." She also announced that CCTV is having another PSA Day in May, for which organizations may sign up to have one PSA produced by CCTV staff.

**Chair's Report:** Elizabeth Dean-Clover reminded those in attendance that elections will take place next month for the Chair and Secretary Positions. She also reported that the application deadline for CCPD Board vacancies has been extended to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Nominations for officer positions were opened, with the following results:

For Chair: Bet MacArthur nominated Sandy Durmaskin. However, the nomination was deferred because Ms. Durmaskin was not present.

For Secretary: JoAnn Haas nominated Bet MacArthur, which was seconded by Dave Wood, but Ms. MacArthur respectfully declined the nomination.

Elizabeth Dean-Clover said that last month's discussion on inclusiveness of CCPD events will be tabled until the new leadership is in place.

**Guest Speaker:** Laura Brelsford, Deputy Director of the MBTA's Department of System-Wide Accessibility, explained that her department was created about six years ago as part of the settlement agreement with the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) to make improvements to fixed route systems (which does not

include The RIDE). The department has a staff of nine and they have made a lot of progress, but still have areas to improve on.

Ms. Brelsford reported that the MBTA's Chief Financial Officer has made it clear that the budget for fiscal year 2014, which has been approved by the board of directors, does not include any fare increases for persons with disabilities (PWD), seniors, students, or The RIDE.

She explained that The RIDE changed the way it determined eligibility in December, 2012, shifting to in-person assessments conducted at the Eligibility Center near Sullivan Station. There is no longer a paper application. During the in-person assessment, applicants meet with a mobility coordinator and go through an interview and may be asked to do some simple testing such as walking, etc. depending on their disability. The Eligibility Center provides roundtrip door-to-door transportation for the assessment via The RIDE. The Center relies on medical documentation from medical providers for several types of disabilities, such as psychiatric, cognitive, vision impairment, etc. However, the Center will make contact with medical providers, rather than requiring applicants to get documentation from providers themselves.

Ms. Brelsford explained that the MBTA is discussing the possibility of creating The RIDE Charlie Cards, which would allow RIDE members to ride fixed route transportation (i.e., buses, trains and trolleys) for free.

Lastly, Ms. Brelsford said that her office has been working on an MBTA Orientation Training for PWD. This training lasts for about three hours and is currently offered once a month.

**Police Community Liaison Update:** Superintendent Chris Burke reported that the Police Department's bicycle traffic enforcement project in North Cambridge has entered into phase 1, the educational part, focusing on intersection of Mass Ave and Rindge Ave. He said that two electronic sign boards have been deployed to that location with a "share the road" message, focusing on pedestrian safety. CPD will move to the enforcement phase in a few weeks.

He also said that CPD has been working on developing a policy for police encounters with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, which Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman helped edit. The draft is currently in review.

**Sidewalk Update:** JoAnn Haas noted that the revised bicycle regulations prohibiting parking bikes to disability parking poles has still not been updated on the Traffic Dept's website. However, it was noted that the problem has been greatly improved since the new signage was added to the poles.

Ms. Haas said that information about the Best Shoveled Sidewalk contest was not distributed this past winter, which is something to work on for next year.

Bet MacArthur suggested doing a PSA about the Adopt-a-Corner program.

**Disability Reframed:** Bet MacArthur reported that the film series committee meets on the first Monday morning of every month and that both CCPD and the Boston CPD are now looking to get one more person from each board to join the committee.

The following is a draft schedule of upcoming screenings:

June 8 – What's Eating Gilbert Grape in Boston  
July 27 – documentary TBD in Cambridge  
September 21 – feature film TBD in Boston  
Nov 2 – feature film TBD in Cambridge  
Jan 11, 2014 – documentary TBD in Boston

**Executive Director's Report:** Michael Muehe reported that *Distracted* is opening May 9 at the Central Square Theater, and that they will be having a series of pre- and post- performance symposiums. Bet MacArthur has agreed to be a discussant.

He reported that SCM Transportation, part of the Cambridge in Motion group, has been awarded a New Freedom Grant, and that the group has been rebranded "Ways2Go," which is offering travel training for PWD who need more intensive one-on-one training for navigating the T.

Mr. Muehe said that CCPD will have a booth next to the Boston Commission at the Abilities Expo in September. The Expo is scheduled for Sept. 20, 21 & 22 and that volunteers will be needed to staff the booth.

**Project Coordinator's Report:** Kate Thurman reported attending an Election Coordination Meeting, along with representatives from many other City departments, and offered CCPD as a resource to the Election Commission regarding any accessibility-related issue.

**New Business:** Miriam Cooper said that Cambridge is behind the times when it comes to accessible pedestrian signals (APS), stating that the current standard is to have push buttons with vibro-tactile signals, providing a locator tone as well as a vibration to help people locate the button, as well as a crossing sound. She said that she would like to put on the next agenda more extensive discussion to urge the City to start installing the new signals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator