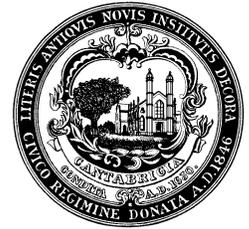


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Miriam Cooper  
*Chair*

Holly Aldrich  
Elizabeth Dean-Clower  
Sandy Durmaskin  
Kara Falise  
Avner Fink  
JoAnn Haas  
Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
Alissa Land  
Bet MacArthur  
Naomi Pinson

Michael Muehe  
*Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman  
*Project Coordinator*

Joanna Berton Martinez  
Katie Ashwill  
*Pro Bono Associates*

**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 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**

**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.**

- |   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| 1. Introductions                        | 2 min.  |   |
| 2. Approval of Minutes for March 13     | 2 min.  |   |
| 3. Announcements                        | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / board                                    |
| 4. Chair's Report                       | 5 min.  | Miriam Cooper   |
| 5. Nominations for Chair, Secretary     | 10 min. | ALL   |
| 6. Public Works: Five Year Plan Update  | 15 min. | Kathy Watkins & Debbie Cheng                          |
| 7. Employment Committee                 | 10 min. | Avner Fink  |
| 8. Disability Reframed Film Series      | 5 min.  | Bet MacArthur   |
| 9. DHSP Inclusion Update                | 5 min.  | Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Manager of Inclusion Services |
| 10. Police Community Liaison Update     | 5 min.  | Jack Albert   |
| 11. Update: Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min.  | JoAnn Haas  |
| 12. Executive Director's Report         | 5 min.  | Michael Muehe   |
| 13. Temp. Project Coord. Report         | 3 min.  | Joanna Berton Martinez                                |
| 14. Public Input                        | 2 min.  | general public  |
| 15. Old Business                        | 1 min.  |   |
| 16. New Business                        | 1 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.



## **MINUTES – 4/10/2014**

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

Minutes for Thursday, April 10, 2014

51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM

#### Present

**Members:** Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, Avner Fink, JoAnn Haas, Bet MacArthur, Naomi Pinson, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Debbie Cheng (DPW sub for Kara), Alissa Land

**Staff:** Michael Muehe, Joanna Berton Martinez (Temp)

**Absent:** Holly Aldrich, Kara Falise, Kate Thurman

**Guests:** Jack Albert, Police Community Liaison; Donald Summerfield; Kathy Watkins, Public Works Presentation; Diane Whitney, Community Visitor

#### **Documents/Materials Used:**

- Minutes from March 13, 2014
- DRAFT Five-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan DPW 4/15/14
- Boston Globe Op-Ed, Carol Steinberg on Making Workplaces More Welcoming 4/9/14
- MA State House Cambridge Delegation 2014

**Minutes:** The Minutes for March 13, 2014, were unanimously approved. Elizabeth made the motion to accept; Alissa seconded. JoAnn Haas asked for her last name to be spelled correctly on page 6, after “Update on Sidewalk Obstruction...”

**Announcements:** No announcements

#### **Chair’s Report:**

Cambridge River Festival will be held Saturday, June 7, at Central Square this year. This event is a great opportunity for outreach and CCPD is looking for volunteers to help table the event. A sign-up sheet was circulated at this meeting. Ideally, there are three people at the table per shift and one suggestion is to call community members on the CCPD list who like to volunteer for events.

**Nominations for Chair, Secretary:**

CCPD officer elections will be conducted May 8, 2014; Bet MacArthur, Sandy Durmaskin, Naomi Pinson, and Alissa Land were nominated as Chairs but they humbly declined. Miriam Cooper nominated Bet MacArthur for Secretary; Bet accepts the nomination provided a Chair is decided. There will be another opportunity for nominations at the May CCPD meeting, prior to the elections.

**Disability Reframed Film Series:** Bet MacArthur

The last screening was held Tuesday, February 4 and the film was *Getting Up*. The next film will be *Lars and the Real Girl*, screening where and when TBD. [Editor's note: *Lars and the Real Girl* will be screened on Saturday, May 31 at 2 PM at Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston.]

**Public Works: Five Year Plan Update:** Kathy Watkins

Kathy gave a power point presentation on the working document, *5 Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan, DPW (4/15/14)*. The time-span covers 2014-2018 and highlights include:

- The plan's goals include reconstructing streets, sidewalks and bicycle facilities so everyone can use them safely with accessibility.
- The Alewife Wetlands Recreation Area is open! There was a big opening October 2013 , with accessible boardwalks and multiuse paths; tell a friend.
- Sewer separation initiative to address EPA mandate to mitigate raw sewage and rainwater overflow into area waterways.
- *Please refer to the handout for a comprehensive look at the plan.*

**Employment Committee:** Avner Fink

There have already been preliminary meetings to plan what CCPD will host for National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October. The next planning committee will meet on Tuesday, April 29 @ 6pm. The event this year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29. Themes will include technology + accessibility. Some ideas include having a panel, and speaking with MIT, drawing employers into the event and/or discussion.

**DHSP Inclusion Update:** Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Manager of Inclusion Services

All of the after-school programs run by the Dept of Human Services (youth centers, childcare and community school programs) are supported by the Inclusion Initiative. About 25% of the children who participated in the school year 2013-2014 had a documented special need identified through their individualized education plan (IEP). Currently, Inclusion Services are interviewing for Inclusion Facilitators for the summer camps. They hire between 30-40 staff.

**Police Community Liaison Update:** Jack Albert

Currently working with MIT students; they are interested in making their own You Tube video on bicycle safety this year. Jack showed our recent PSA on disability parking to them as an example of using peer or social pressure.

JoAnn asked if cyclists could be required to wear a helmet and carry ID. Jack responded that only people under 16 years old are required by state law to wear a helmet. If there is an accident, police would ask for identification but otherwise, cyclists do not have to have an identification card in order to legally ride a bike in Cambridge.

Don mentioned that some people are still feeding the pigeons in Carl Barron Plaza in Central Square, and asked if police officers would enforce the City ordinance which prohibits feeding the birds. This is a problem because rats and other vermin are attracted by the bird food, creating a public health nuisance for people trying to enjoy this urban plaza.

**Update: Sidewalk Obstruction Issues:** JoAnn Haas

Now that winter is over, the current issue is to keep recycling bins off the sidewalk until they are allowed to be put on the sidewalk. She suggested high school students could walk around and note site obstructions. Debbie said they could discuss Public Works' participation on something like this during the summer. Elizabeth thinks having students help out is a good idea, and offering something like ice cream or a small incentive could inspire awareness and participation. Nicole says if planning to partner with youth, discuss this idea with Youth Centers. Debbie says they have a 'DPW Week' in mid-May and a lot of youth attend the event, an idea like this would serve as a pilot project, too. There are various options on how to use the iReport app. Next year, in regards to the snow and ice obstructions, JoAnn wants to involve the MBTA in the discussion.

**Executive Director's Report:** Michael Muehe

Joanna is now working 15 hrs week on a temporary basis.

Kate is doing well, and hopefully she will ease back into work by the end of April or early May.

- Circulated an Op-Ed piece written by Carol R. Steinberg (April 9, 2014. [Boston Globe](#)) about Senate Bill 18469. If community members want to tell their representative what they think, reach them direct.
- The Cambridge Somerville Aging and Mental Health Coalition is organizing a panel presentation on mental health recovery. Presenters will be sharing their personal stories on recovery; the panel will be sometime in June. [Editor's note: The panel will be held at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave., on Tuesday, June 24th @ 1:00 PM.]
- The annual Cambridge River Festival is on Saturday, June 7th and CCPD is looking for volunteers to sign up for 1-2 hour shifts to help at the table from 11:30am-6pm.
- Cambridge Municipal Cable (TV-22) will start real-time captioning of City Council meetings, hopefully to begin Fall 2014.
- There will be a memorial for Chip Norton on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Water Department @ 6pm.
- Wednesday, May 7th from 7-9pm, Cambridge's Annual Commemoration of the Holocaust at Temple Beth Shalom on 8 Tremont Street. There is a special candle lit for persons with disabilities. They are looking for two candle-lighters: Don offered to volunteer.

- April/May *AccessLetter* was released last week.
- Open call for articles or ideas for the upcoming June/July *AccessLetter*. Deadline: Thursday, May 15
- Abilities Expo this year will be held Sept 5-7. It's really a great event, more details later.

**Temp Project Coordinator's Report:** Joanna Berton Martinez

- Attended Fair Housing Act training on Tuesday, April 8th and will give a short overview next CCPD meeting.
- We are getting ready to build the next PSA. There will be a little agenda time next CCPD meeting and we can go from there.

**New Business:** Alternative housing voucher program legislation is up Friday, April 11, contact your representatives by 12 noon if interested to tell them your opinion. Donald will also be speaking with Spaulding in Charlestown. Sandy would like to know more about the Cambridge Open Studios shuttle (event to be held late-April). Elizabeth proposes to re-introduce disability issues in the elementary schools. Nicole says they have a curriculum with the DHSP Inclusion program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM