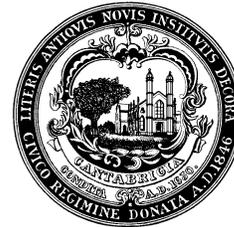


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



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



Approved 6/12/2014

## **MINUTES – 5/8/2014**

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

Minutes for Thursday, May 8, 2014  
51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139  
Meeting was called to order at 5:24PM

#### Present

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

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

**Absent:** Miriam Cooper, Kara Falise, Jack Albert (Police Community Liaison)

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

- Minutes from April 10, 2014
- Recovery Is Real flyer (Mental Health)

**Minutes:** The Minutes for April 10, 2014, were unanimously approved. Alissa made the motion to accept; Sandy seconded.

#### **Announcements:**

- Holly Aldrich stepped down from the board and is no longer a CCPD member.
- River Festival is on Saturday, June 7 and CCPD will be hosting a community table on Sidney Street at the corner of Mass Ave. The event is being held in Central Square this year due to construction along Charles River.

**Chair's Report:** Elizabeth Dean-Clover chaired the meeting in Miriam Cooper's absence. A motion to postpone officer elections until the June meeting was seconded and passed.

A second motion was made to extend officer nominations into the June meeting. This motion was seconded and passed.

The June meeting will also include a vote for the board to take off either the month of July or August.

#### **Nominations for Chair, Secretary:**

Sandy Durmaskin nominated Elizabeth Dean-Clover for Chair, Nicole Horton-Stimpson seconded, and Ms. Dean-Clover accepted the nomination.

Approved 6/12/2014

Alissa Land nominated Avner Fink for Chair, Bet MacArthur seconded. Mr. Fink would like to consider his nomination before deciding to run.

Bet MacArthur was nominated, and accepted, last meeting (April 10, 2014) for Secretary.

Bet MacArthur Nominated Sandy Durmaskin for Secretary, but Ms. Durmaskin respectfully declined the nomination.

**Employment Committee:** Avner Fink reported that the meeting in April was. This is an open call to members to join the committee – currently consisting of Michael Muehe, Mr. Fink, Sandy Durmaskin, and Elizabeth Dean-Clower – and help them brainstorm an awesome day on Wednesday, October 29, with Disability Mentoring Day activities during the day and a forum on technology in the workplace in the evening. Michael says Easter Seals did give a preliminary positive response, when he contacted them about the possibility of providing a speaker for our Oct. 29 evening event.

**Disability Reframed Film Series:** Bet MacArthur reported that the next screening, of *Lars and the Real Girl*, will be held on Saturday, May 31 at 2 PM at Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, 360 Huntington Ave. in Boston, Room 342, located on Forsythe Street and Huntington Ave. This event is in collaboration with Northeastern and the City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities. The next film will be held 6-8 weeks afterwards, perhaps at the end of July.

**DHSP Inclusion Update:** Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Manager of Inclusion Services, reported that with summer approaching, out of school time programming shifts from part-time to full-time child care. Considerations during this transition are the children needing care for more hours in the day, and a new crew of staff is being hired to support the children's summer needs. She said that she has hired almost 20 new staff so far, and will probably hire 10 more, with 30 total.

**Police Community Liaison Update:** No report this evening from Jack Albert (absent from meeting) but a question about the status of the Police's electronic sign project came up. JoAnn Haas says if she is given the dimensions, she can draft slogans or phrases for the electronic signs. JoAnn presented three questions regarding bicycle safety: 1) Shouldn't people over the age of 16 be required to wear helmets? 2) Shouldn't cyclists be required to carry I.D., especially considering they are to follow the rules of the road? 3) Is there interest to conduct research, have a subcommittee, or work with other efforts, to address cyclist safety? Bet MacArthur expressed interest, but is not able to do research. Michael Muehe says if anyone has suggestions for 'pithy' bicycle safety phrases, please send them to Michael.

**Update: Sidewalk Obstruction Issues:**

Debbie Cheng explained why DPW would not be able to assist the effort to have high school students canvass the area to help determine sidewalk obstruction issues, rather, the best way to address sidewalk obstruction issues is by using iReport or to email DPW direct. Debbie adds; iReport continues to improve, and DPW has 3-4 co-op students (Northeastern University) every

Approved 6/12/2014

season that canvas and use iReport to help DPW locate issues. Alissa asks: what were the issues resulting in DPW rejecting JoAnn's proposal? Debbie responds: safety is the first consideration. JoAnn adds: what about during the snow and ice time and bus stops and Central Square? It is May right now but it will be October soon enough.

**DPW Reports:** Debbie Cheng

Debbie gave updates of current projects and their status, including a sidewalk in Porter Sq., a street in Brookline, a spot on Hancock St., Mass Ave., Rindge Ave., and in Inman Sq.

Naomi asked about another location, Debbie will look into it. Don asked about two sidewalks on Blackstone, "they are mountains", Debbie will look into it.

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

- Holly Aldrich submitted her resignation and has stepped down from the CCPD board.
- We have seen a flurry of Architectural Access Board (AAB) cases in recent months involving apartment buildings. Typically, these buildings have between 10 and 25 units, and the owners of these buildings are undertaking significant renovations (between \$500,000 and \$1 million or more). The amount of money being spent is enough to trigger the AAB requirement that an accessible entrance be provided, but it is not enough to trigger the requirement that any units be renovated to make them fully accessible. AAB hearings regarding three of these buildings: 19-21 Wendell St, 1 Chauncy St., and 3 Chauncy St. Will be held Monday, June 16 at 1pm and 3 pm @ One Ashburton Place, Boston on the 21<sup>st</sup> floor.
  - Bet makes a motion that the board vote to support Michael's request that AAB variances not be not granted without a hearing, particularly in cases where visitability is at issue, and accessibility within units or apartments, is not. JoAnn seconds. The board votes unanimously in agreement.
- Kate is back! Her hours are part-time and will increase with time.
- Boston Accessibility Conference, "A11YBOS" is this Saturday, May 10 from 9am-5pm at the new IBM Center and it's free to attend. Michael will attend some of it, in prep for the upcoming October CCPD event.
- The Cambridge Somerville Aging and Mental Health Coalition panel will be held at the Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass. Ave., on Tuesday, June 24th @ 1:00 PM.
- Michael attended a mini-symposium (4-hours) on medical marijuana. There are several ways to administer medical marijuana, not just smoking it, and there are many, many questions surrounding the legal issues in Massachusetts. There are no legal dispensaries in MA, currently, even though the original projected opening date was 6-months ago, the Department of Public Health is sorting it all out and organizing the protocols and licensure procedure to operate a dispensary. Materials from this symposium are in the Dropbox folder.

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

Approved 6/12/2014

- New PSA – get ready to make some magic! Joanna will send the board an email with a timeframe to send topics suggestions for the next PSA. Members at the meeting spontaneously brainstorm ideas including: bike safety, wear a helmet when cycling, don't ride your bike on the sidewalk, observe stop signs and red lights, on a national scope how about violence against PWD, and shovel sidewalks come snow.

**New Business:** Donald asks, since Holly resigned will that spot be filled? Michael responds, we haven't sorted that out yet and we will post the opening when protocols are determined.

JoAnn asks the group, have there been any other complaints about *The Ride* taking routes that don't feel right? Michael responds: consider referring complaints such as these to the Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (or the MBTA directly) because their systems are already in place and they take seriously complaints such as these.

Sandy asks about the big sign on City Hall lawn, "National White Cane Week". Michael responds, this was connected to the National Federation for the Blind and did not involve CCPD at all.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM