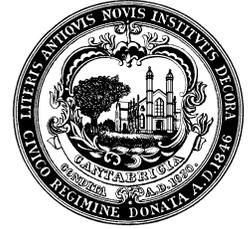


City of Cambridge

# Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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



Gary Dmytryk  
*Chair*  
Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
*Secretary*

**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 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

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

Katie Ashwill Allen  
Maria Fontellio  
Jerry Friedman  
Stelios Gragoudas  
Mike Langlois  
Luis Loya  
Bet MacArthur  
Julie Miller  
Alicia Zeh-Dean

Michael Muehe  
*Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman  
*Project Coordinator*

## AGENDA

**Please turn OFF your cellphones before the meeting begins. Thank you.**

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

- |   |         |                        |
|---|---------|------------------------|
| 1. Introductions<br><i>If needed, alternates named</i>  | 2 min.  |                        |
| 2. Approval of March 9 Minutes  | 2 min.  |                        |
| 3. Announcements  | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / board     |
| 4. Presentation of Five Year Plan   | 30 min. | DPW                    |
| 5. Chair's Report<br><i>Cambridge River Festival on Saturday, June 3<br/>Board Goals for Retreat<br/>Nominations for Election of Officers on May 11, 2017</i> | 5 min.  | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| 6. Committee Reports  |         |                        |
| Access Cambridge  | 5 min.  | Luis Loya              |
| Advocacy  | 5 min.  | Katie Ashwill Allen    |
| Community Outreach  | 5 min.  | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| Disability Reframed Film Series   | 5 min.  | Bet MacArthur          |
| Media & Technology  | 5 min.  | Mike Langlois          |
| 7. Police Department Liaison Report   | 5 min.  | Jack Albert            |
| 8. Executive Director's Report  | 5 min.  | Michael Muehe          |
| 9. Project Coordinator's Report   | 5 min.  | Kate Thurman           |
| 10. Public Input  | 3 min.  | general public         |
| 11. Old Business  | 2 min.  |                        |
| 12. 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.

**The next CCPD meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017**

PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH AWARENESS



Approved 4/13/17

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

Minutes for Thursday, March 9, 2017

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

### **Present**

**Members:** Katie Ashwill Allen, Gary Dmytryk, Maria Fontellio, Stelios Gragoudas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Mike Langlois, Luis Loya, and Bet MacArthur.

**Absent:** Debbie Cheng, Julie Miller and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

**Staff:** Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman.

**Guests:** Carmelle Madhere; Merrily Nykoruk; Don Summerfield; and Simon Sun.

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

- Agenda
- Minutes from January 12
- Flyer for April 4 screening of *Rachel Is*

### **Minutes:**

A motion to approve the January 12 minutes was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Chair's Report**—Gary Dmytryk reported:

- DPW will present their Five Year Plan at the April meeting
- There's an Open House and Fair on Affordable Housing on Saturday, April 29 at CRLS with a panel presentation on various aspects of fair housing and reasonable accommodation.
- Nominations for Chair and Secretary will be taken at the April meeting, with elections held in May.
- Board members are needed for staffing the CCPD community table at the Cambridge River Festival on Saturday, June 3. [Ed. Note: this event will be on the Charles River waterfront near the Hotel Sonesta.]
- Review of meeting expectations
- Katie Ashwill Allen is moving out of state and thus must step down from the Board. Therefore, the Advocacy committee needs a new chair. It was decided that the Access and Advocacy committees would merge temporarily.
- Gary noted that Bet's second term will expire this summer, leaving another vacancy.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Access Cambridge – Luis Loya reported:**
  - Proposed amendments to Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) regulations.
    - Recommendations to add public rights of way standards from the U.S. Access Board.
    - Future of the MAAB is uncertain, so we will hold off until that is settled.
  - Continuing to look at applications for MAAB variances.

- New gelato store, Amorino, at 50 JFK Street that has proposed providing service on the sidewalk instead of providing a wheelchair accessible entrance.
      - ◆ They are planning a significant renovation (\$250,000.00 at least), which triggers the requirement for providing an accessible entrance.
      - ◆ The MAAB granted the variance without a hearing. Michael has requested a hearing, on behalf of CCPD.
      - ◆ The sidewalk to the side of the building is owned by the building owner, so it can be raised to provide access to the store.
      - ◆ Once a MAAB hearing has been scheduled, we need as many people as possible to show up to tell MAAB this is not acceptable
- **Advocacy – Katie Ashwill Allen reported:**
  - Looking at advocacy on the local, state and federal level.
  - Nationally, focusing on healthcare with the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act
  - On the state level, looking at MAAB regulations, but it's unclear if the board will continue to exist in its current form. Existence of the board is the top priority for our advocacy.
  - Maintenance of accessible features in Harvard Square, testing the automatic door openers. Must maintain accessible features. We have written letters to a few entities asking them to fix their automatic door openers.
  - Look at License Commission hearing agendas and writing letters to entities that are requesting licenses but are not accessible.
- **Community Outreach – Nicole Horton-Stimpson reported:**
  - Working on a committee mission statement
  - Need volunteers for River Fest on Saturday, June 3 from 11am to 6pm
- **Disability Reframed: A Community Film Series—Bet MacArthur reported:**
  - In conjunction with ReelAbilities Boston Film Festival, Disability Reframed will be hosting a screening of *Rachel Is* on Tuesday, April 4 at the Cambridge Main Library.
- **Media & Technology – Mike Langlois reported:**
  - Julie will be working on the Commission's Facebook page.
  - Stel is working on Uber and accessibility.
  - Mike discussed doing CCPD's website over. CRLS has ongoing internship opportunities; there is interest in having a student partner with CCPD on this.
  - Nuvu Studio, which is focused on project-based learning for students who may not do well in traditional schools, is interested in partnering with us on student project based learning in Central Square. Always looking for new forms of assistive technology. We will get a list of projects they are doing on adaptive technology.

**Public Works (DPW) Update—Jim Wilcox reported:**

- DPW is lifting the winter construction moratorium on March 20. Reconstruction of sidewalks and roadway on Huron Ave should be complete by November.

- There are a lot of sidewalk detours in Kendall Square due to private development construction. Inspectors are keeping an eye on that part of the City to be sure accessibility is maintained.
- Snow compliance – DPW got 150-200 complaints a day about unshoveled sidewalks. Had 5-6 inspectors out each day for about a week. Most of the fine citations were issued to property owners that made no effort to shovel the snow. Each citation is mailed to the property owner, not the tenant. If they did make an effort, inspectors left a door tag rather than citation.

**Police Department Liaison Report—Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert reported:**

- Every road in the City now has a 25 MPH speed limit, unless posted otherwise; this is part of the City’s Vision Zero approach to reducing serious injuries and fatal crashes to zero.
- Crime in Cambridge was at a 55-year low in 2016.
- Cambridge was one of the first sanctuary cities in the country. The PD is getting a lot of calls about how they will be policing in regards to immigration. The PD will not ask anybody about their immigration status, and will not conduct immigration raid investigations. Their goal is to serve everyone in the community. The PD will not hold people arrested by ICE.
- They will be having a meeting with the Cambridge Housing Authority and all housing managers. They would like to do a door-to-door campaign to assure residents that the PD will not be knocking on doors to report people to ICE.
- The PD is in the process of hiring a new Police Commissioner. There was a public process asking residents what they would like to see in the next commissioner. Hoping to have a new commissioner on board no later than the end of July.

**Executive Director’s Report—Michael Muehe reported:**

- Met with new director of technology at the Library. Working with him to formulate recommendations on their new digital signage process and public info kiosks.
- Met with Julie Lynch from DPW who is overseeing the City’s municipal facilities improvement plan.
- Proposed new hackney regulations by the City’s License Commission clean up language about serving customers with disabilities, including those using service animals.
- All Commission members are invited to participate in the monthly conference call of local Commissions on Disability (CODs). [ED note: these calls are generally held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 PM; let Michael know if you wish to attend.].

**Project Coordinator’s Report—Kate Thurman reported:**

- Working with First Reformed Presbyterian Church on Antrim Street to construct an accessible entrance.
- Would like to hear from members about the Commission’s goals for holding a board retreat. This will go on the April agenda.
- The Constant Contact email initiative is still in the works. Kate and Michael are meeting with the City’s Director of Communication next week to begin the roll out.

**Old Business:** Katie reported that she created a spreadsheet about Cambridge businesses and other entities with accessibility issues.

**New Business:**

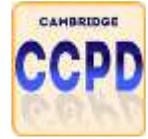
- Luis brought up the idea of CCPD participating in the GLBTQ Pride Festival in June.
- He also said he is writing an article on social stairs, a structure where people go sit and have lunch and chat. How to provide access with something that is a stair? If this is becoming a trend, how would you like to see this developed? This is a trend on college campuses.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman.

**ReelAbilities**  
FILM FESTIVAL

BOSTON



**Disability Reframed:**  
A Community Film Series



**Tuesday, April 4, 2017 -- 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Cambridge Public Library, Main Lecture Hall, 449 Broadway**

**Pre-screening reception 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

Join the ReelAbilities Boston Film Festival and Disability Reframed: A Community Film Series for an open-captioned screening of *Rachel Is*, a powerful documentary film. Rachel is mysterious, funny, difficult and full of contradictions, and, like most young people her age, she is ready to move out of her mother's house. This dream of independence seems impossible. Rachel, who is developmentally disabled, can't be left alone and the social services needed for her to live an "adult life" are unavailable. The relationship between mother and daughter is full of frustrations, as each wants independence from the other. What is Jane willing to sacrifice for Rachel to be independent? And what happens to a parent when they don't have the support they need to give their child a good life?

**Discussion to follow with Director and film subject Charlotte Glynn; and Susan Senator, Author: *Autism Adulthood: Strategies and Insights for a Fulfilling Life*.**

**Free Admission.**

**This is a scent-free event.** Out of consideration for people with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from using perfume or other scented products. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) has been requested. For sign language interpreters or other accommodations, please contact ReelAbilities Boston by March 15 at [info@reelboston.org](mailto:info@reelboston.org). **Check out all of the 2017 ReelAbilities info at: [www.reelboston.org](http://www.reelboston.org).** Disability Reframed: A Community Film Series is a collaboration of the Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Hosted by the Cambridge Public Library.