

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Chair

Bet MacArthur
Secretary

Miriam Cooper
Sandy Durmaskin
Kara Falise
Avner Fink
JoAnn Haas
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Naomi Pinson

Michael Muehe
*Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman
Disability Project Coordinator

Joanna Berton Martinez
Seasonal Project Coordinator

Katie Ashwill
Pro Bono Associate

The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, November 13, 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.

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| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approve Minutes for October 9 | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report
<i>Debriefing of Employment Event</i> | 10 min. | Elizabeth Dean-Clower |
| 5. Discussion of Service Animal Issues | 10 min. | |
| 6. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 7. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 8. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min. | JoAnn Haas |
| 9. Executive Director's Report | 5 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 10. Project Coordinator's Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 11. Public Input | 2 min. | general public |
| 12. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 13. 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.



Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Minutes for Thursday, November 13, 2014

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:38pm

Present:

Members: Debbie Cheng, Miriam Cooper; Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, Avner Fink, JoAnn Haas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Bet MacArthur, and Naomi Pinson

Alternate: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Guests: Lowry Heussler, Cambridge resident; and Michelle Melvesky.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for November 13, 2014 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from October 9, 2014 Meeting
- Flyer for November 25, 2014 screening of *Miss You Can Do It*

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes for the October 9, 2014 meeting was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth Dean-Clower reported that the employment event, *Expect. Employ. Empower. Assistive Technology in the Workplace*, was a great success. It would be helpful if somebody wrote a report for future employment committee meetings in order to maintain an institutional memory. Ms. Dean-Clower said that she would draft something and get it to CCPD staff.

The December CCPD will be abbreviated and followed by a potluck holiday party. Friends of CCPD are welcome!

Ms. Dean-Clower requested that members ask her to include items on the agenda rather than discussing them in new or old business.

The possibility of changing the date of CCPD meetings was discussed, with no decisions made.

Discussion of Service Animal Issues: Lowry Heussler, a service dog user, said that there has been a big problem with people claiming their pet dogs are service animals. Many service dog users have an inhibition about speaking up about this problem because no service dog is perfect. This can be a simple misunderstanding with people not knowing the definition of service animal (the ADA defines a service animal as a dog that is individually trained to perform tasks to benefit a person with a disability). Ms. Heussler said that her dog has been nearly attacked by another dog in Cambridge. It is a problem because there is no certification or licensure process for service animals.

Michael Muehe is working with the Animal Commission to change the language on the dog license application form. Rather than checking a box stating that a dog is a service animal, in which case the license fee is waived, the 2015 application will require that applicants sign under penalty of perjury that their dog meets the ADA definition of a service animal.

It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to explore ways of addressing this problem. Miriam Cooper, Bet MacArthur and Kate Thurman volunteered to be on the committee.

Film Series Update: Bet MacArthur reported that the City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities has scheduled the next film, *Little Miss You Can Do It*, for Tuesday, November 25 at Boston University.

She also reported that Disability Reframed is partnering again with ReelAbilities to show a film on February 24, 2015 at the Main Library.

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng reported that several projects will continue through the winter, including Western Ave construction, Alewife sewer separation, Huron B and Concord Ave; two parks projects, utility work on Main and Binney Streets and the Cambridge Common. Private utility companies are permitted to continue working in the winter.

Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues: JoAnn Haas reported that she sent out a reminder email to the neighborhood associations about clearing snow and ice from sidewalks.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that CCPD intern Katie Ashwill Allen has been working on physical access issues in buildings and sidewalks. She recently completed a survey on Memorial Drive. CCPD has had an increasing numbers of complaints about the poor quality of the sidewalks on Memorial Drive from JFK to Magazine Beach. The survey results were forwarded to Tom McCarthy, the ADA Coordinator for the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Mr. Muehe said that bids have been received for the accessible pedestrian signal contract and the City is hoping to sign a contract soon.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported that she and Michael Muehe met with the architect and DPW to review the Ackermann Room and Sullivan Chamber in City Hall, which have undergone renovations. The Sullivan Chamber has updated technology, a new ramp to the mayor's rostrum, better acoustics, an assistive listening system, a large screen for presentations, a new sound system, and a set-up for communication access realtime translation (CART).

Old Business:

The issue of voter accessibility was raised and it was requested that this be an agenda item in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator