

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



Nicole Horton-Stimpson  
*Chair*

Avner Fink  
*Secretary*

Elizabeth Dean-Clower  
Sandy Durmaskin  
Kara Falise  
Maria Fontellio  
Zahra Kanji  
Bet MacArthur  
Naomi Pinson  
Alicia Zeh-Dean

Michael Muehe  
*Executive Director/  
ADA Coordinator*

Kate Thurman  
*Disability Project Coordinator*

Katie Ashwill  
*Pro Bono Associate*

**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, July 9, 2015 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 may be audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.**

- |   |         |                            |
|---|---------|----------------------------|
| 1. Introductions  | 2 min.  |                            |
| 2. Approval of June 11 Minutes  | 5 min.  |                            |
| 3. Announcements  | 2 min.  | CCPD staff / board         |
| 4. Chair's Report<br><i>Welcoming New CCPD Members<br/>ADA Anniversary Proclamation</i> | 10 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson     |
| 5. Update from Dept. of Traffic,<br>Parking & Transportation                            | 20 min. | Joe Barr &<br>Jeff Parenti |
| 6. Public Works Update  | 5 min.  | Debbie Cheng               |
| 7. Police Community Liaison Update  | 5 min.  | Jack Albert                |
| 8. Disability Reframed Film Series  | 5 min.  | Bet MacArthur              |
| 9. Executive Director's Report  | 10 min. | Michael Muehe              |
| 10. Project Coordinator's Report  | 5 min.  | Kate Thurman               |
| 11. Public Input  | 3 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.



Approved 9/10/15

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

Minutes for Thursday July 9, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:47PM

### Present

**Members:** Elizabeth Dean-Clover (by phone), Avner Fink, Maria Fontellio, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Bet MacArthur (by phone), and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

**Absent:** Debbie Cheng, Sandy Durmaskin, Zahra Kanji, and Naomi Pinson.

**Alternates:** Donald Summerfield

**Guests:** Jack Albert, Cambridge Police Department; Joe Barr, Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation; and Matthew Page Lieberman, Medford Resident.

**Staff:** Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

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

- Minutes from June 11, 2015
- ADA-compliant pole-mounted accessible pedestrian signal deployment plan

### **Minutes:**

A motion to approve the May 14, 2015 minutes was seconded and passed.

**Reminder:** There will be a public celebration of the ADA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the Boston Common from 11am-3pm on Wednesday, July 22. See [www.ada25boston.org](http://www.ada25boston.org) for more information.

**Police Community Liaison Update:** Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert reported that July 4 operations went extremely well. He said that a lot of people took advantage of disability parking on Cambridgepark Drive.

He also said that Governor Patrick signed a new law in 2009 prohibiting requirements for bicycle registration. He said that the Police Department recovers a lot of stolen bikes every year, but with no way to track down the owners, they go out to auction.

**Update from Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation (TPT):** Joe Barr, Director of TPT, would like to work with CCPD and the disability community to be sure that TPT is making whatever accessibility improvements they can. He has been working with Jeff Parenti, Traffic Engineer, and CCPD on the installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) in priority locations around Cambridge. Mr. Barr also reported that TPT has been tasked with improving the way that people pay for parking at meters; they are considering options such as pay by phone and smart parking meters which accept credit cards and have other technology that provides a lot more data about how parking is being used, if meter is broken, etc. He said that he is always willing to hear about ways TPT can improve their services, and said that they are focusing on improving customer service.

Bet MacArthur reported that there used to be a disability parking spot as well as meters on Pleasant Street, but that they were removed for construction. Mr. Barr will check with Public Works about the plan for that area.

Michael Muehe said that the newer APS have a locator tone and are mounted at about waist height. They also have a raised arrow on the button pointing in the direction of the crossing. When a pedestrian presses the button, it will say "wait" and will tell you when it is safe to cross. The button also vibrates when it is safe to cross, providing access for people who are deafblind.

Mr. Barr said that the old head-mounted signals make chirp sounds. TPT has a new contract starting in the fall with a different installation vendor, which will allow for the installation of more APS.

There was discussion about the winter and parking control officers (PCOs) being deployed after snow storms to issue snow tickets when sidewalks are not shoveled. Mr. Barr said that this is an important issue for the PCOs, as well as people with disabilities, because they need access in order to do their jobs. He explained that there is a very complicated process to enforce snow tickets.

**Chair's Report:** Nicole Horton-Stimpson welcomed the new CCPD Members, Maria Fontellio, Zahra Kanji (who was not present) and Alicia Zeh-Dean. She encouraged those in attendance to sign on to the ADA Pledge at [bit.ly/ADApledge](https://bit.ly/ADApledge). She also said that she will sign it on behalf of CCPD.

Ms. Horton-Stimpson reported meeting with Michael Muehe about CCPD's annual October employment event. She would like to Chair a small committee of members that would be responsible for putting together logistics. Oce Harrison, the director of the New England ADA Center has expressed interest in being a speaker for the event.

**Disability Reframed Film Series Update:** Bet MacArthur said that Disability Reframed will be screening *La Casa Linda* on Saturday, November 7. The filmmaker, Fred Woods, is a Cambridge resident and will be speaking at the screening; this will be the premier screening on the East Coast. He was a civil rights lawyer in New Mexico when he met a Latina woman named Linda who was a single mom with disabilities and was fighting the state for custody of her child. It was one of the first cases that was won under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a precursor to the ADA. The film is an hour long.

Nicole Horton-Stimpson mentioned the possibility of screening the film for City employees during the day.

Kate Thurman will Tweet about the film and tag media outlets such as the Cambridge Chronicle.

Bet: the whole purpose of the series is to get PWD out and to get the public to come

Ms. Horton-Stimpson suggested thinking about offering a child-friendly screening at some point that she could market through the schools and her clients in the Inclusion Initiative.

**Executive Director's Report:** Michael Muehe is planning on offering an orientation for new CCPD Advisory Board members in early August; current members are also welcome to attend.

Mr. Muehe reported that the City had its first participatory budget process last fall. One of the ideas that was funded was free public wifi and phone chargers in parks. An accessible public toilet for Central Square was also funded. The City is allocating \$600,000 to the participatory budget this year. He asked those in attendance to give some thoughts to possible projects to submit for consideration this year.

He said that he, Kate Thurman and Nicole Horton-Stimpson hosted a high-level Canadian Delegation of government officials and disability rights advocates. The delegation was very interested in the work of both CCPD and the DHSP Inclusion Initiative.

Mr. Muehe recently met with Tom Hopkins of the MA Architectural Access Board (MAAB), along with Allegra Stout from the Boston Center for Independent Living and Larry Braman of Cambridge Inspectional Services. They discussed new regulations that MAAB is trying to get adopted, and how housing advocates can better understand the variance process.

The Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) is inviting people from local commissions on disability (CODs) from across the state to attend a meeting from 10:30-12:30 on August 5 in the Inspector General's Training Room on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of One Ashburton Place in Boston. This is a good opportunity to collaborate with other CODs.

**Project Coordinator's Report:** Kate Thurman said that CCPD's employee celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage of the ADA was very successful and that many employees signed onto the Pledge to recommit to the full implementation of the ADA. She also reported providing a few trainings for City employees on service dogs and providing good customer service to individuals who use them.

Ms. Thurman also reported that the 2015 theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (October) was recently announced by the Office of Disability Employment Policy: "My Disability is One Part of Who I Am"

The meeting adjourned at 7:21PM  
Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman