

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

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Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Chair

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
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, October 8, 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.

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| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of September 10 Minutes | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report
<i>October Employment Event
Trip to Gateway Arts Center</i> | 20 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| 5. Public Works Update
<i>2015 Winter Recap & Storm Coordination</i> | 30 min. | John Nardone &
Bill Dwyer |
| 6. Police Community Liaison Update | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 7. Disability Reframed Film Series
<i>La Casa Linda</i> screening on Nov. 7 | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 8. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 9. Project Coordinator's Report
<i>Abilities Expo
U.S. Attorney's ADA Roundtable</i> | 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.



Approved 11/12/15

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, October 08, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:43PM

Present

Members: Debbie Cheng, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Gary Dymtryk, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Bet MacArthur, and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

Absent: Sandy Durmaskin, Maria Fontellio, Zahra Kanji, and Naomi Pinson.

Alternates: JoAnn Haas and Donald Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Guests: Naeem Ahmed, Cambridge resident; Jack Albert, Police Department; Bill Dwyer, Public Works; and John Nardone, Public Works.

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from September 10
- 2015 Winter Season Recap PowerPoint Presentation
- Flyer for November 7 Disability Reframed screening of *La Casa Linda*

Minutes:

A motion to amend the September 10, 2015 minutes to add the following was seconded and passed:

- Add Gary Dymtryk to the list of members in attendance
- Note that Elizabeth Dean-Clower commended JoAnn Haas's hard work keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Public Works Update: John Nardone and Bill Dwyer of DPW presented a PowerPoint Presentation, *2015 Winter Season Recap*, and spoke about plans for snow and ice removal this coming winter.

Debbie Cheng reported that DPW is preparing for winter and that the Western Ave reconstruction is wrapping up. DPW will be holding a celebration on Saturday, October 24.

Police Community Liaison Update: Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert said that police officers had not been treating Harvard shuttle stops as regular bus stops, meaning they were not ticketing cars parked in those zones. After speaking with Kate Thurman and the Department of Traffic, Parking & Transportation (TPT), it was determined that they are actual bus stops and thus they cannot be used as loading zones or for parking. Deputy Superintendent Albert sent out a training memo to all officers clarifying that cars or trucks parked in these zones are to be ticketed the same way they are ticketed if parked in a MBTA bus stop. TPT is working on adding signage to clarify this.

Disability Reframed Film Series: Bet MacArthur reported that Disability Reframed will be screening *La Casa Linda* on Saturday, November 7 at the Library. The film is a documentary about a woman with a disability in New Mexico. The filmmaker, Cambridge resident Fred Woods, met this woman working as a public interest lawyer in the late 1970s. She was trying to get some assistance from the state in caring for her child. Instead, the state took her child from her. Mr. Woods, as her attorney, sued the state to get personal care services to help care for her

child at home. This is the East Coast premiere of this film and Mr. Woods will be speaking after the screening. This 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.

She also reported that Disability Reframed will be hosting another ReelAbilities film screening on April 5 at the Cambridge Public Library.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that Thelonious Monkfish, a restaurant, received a variance from the MAAB for their newly constructed inaccessible restrooms.

He and Kate Thurman met with Dana Benjamin and Jeff Parenti, who will be leaving TPT for a job outside of the City. Ms. Benjamin will be taking over the APS project. TPT has a new APS contract that is all inclusive; it includes purchase, installation and maintenance, which will allow for more expansive installation of APS.

Mr. Muehe reported that he was judge at a Spaulding MIT Rehab Hackathon, which will be covered in the next issue of the AccessLetter. The \$10,000 prize was given to a team that helps people locate disability parking spaces in Boston.

He stated that CCPD's annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month event will be held on October 28.

Lastly, he stated that some Boston University physical therapy students are collaborating with the local carpenters union to offer free installation of handrails in homes.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman thanked those members who volunteered their time at CCPD's Abilities Expo booth. She reported that 49 people stopped by to sign up for the email list.

She also reported attending an ADA Roundtable discussion held by U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz. There were about 15 disability community leaders present. Ms. Ortiz spoke about recent disability rights cases they have settled, including one with DCF to reunite a baby with her young mother who has a disability, and one with Lesley University to provide accommodations for students with severe food allergies. The office has the capacity to conduct compliance reviews and recently did one on restaurants in the Seaport area of Boston.

The U.S. Attorney was particularly interested in hearing from the community leaders about issues of importance to the disability community and what they should be focusing attention on. Issues that were raised included health care reform; ADA compliance in medical settings; community first initiatives; evidence of charter schools screening out kids with disabilities; communication access for the deaf and hard of hearing; and discrimination against individuals with psychiatric disabilities in emergency rooms. It was also noted that the nature and prevalence of disabilities is quite different than it was when the ADA was passed in 1990. The vast majority of disabilities today are "hidden," including mental illness, heart problems, back pain and brain-based disabilities such as ADD.

New Business: Elizabeth Dean-Clover would like to request that the Harvard Art Museum be surveyed. She said that the entrances all have access issues, including low lighting, the lack of push buttons to open doors, and the placement of descriptions on the wall.

Old Business: Gary Dymtryk reported that Harvard's plans for renovating the Holyoke Center include making the public restrooms larger. He also stated that it will be staffed 24 hours a day.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman