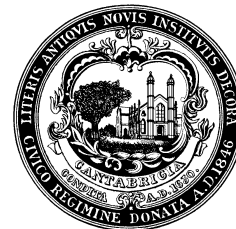


City of Cambridge

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 2nd Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, September 10, 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 July 9 Minutes | 5 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Chair's Report | 20 min. | Nicole Horton-Stimpson |
| <i>Public Listening Sessions on Disparate Employment Outcomes</i> | | |
| <i>Proposed change to DOT ADA regulation on ADA paratransit fares</i> | | |
| <i>October Employment Event</i> | | |
| <i>Abilities Expo</i> | | |
| <i>Trip to Gateway Arts Center</i> | | |
| 5. Public Works Update | 5 min. | Debbie Cheng |
| 6. Police Community Liaison Update | 5 min. | Jack Albert |
| 7. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 8. Executive Director's Report | 10 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.



Approved 10/08/15

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday September 10, 2015

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:41PM

Present

Members: Debbie Cheng, Elizabeth Dean-Clover, Sandy Durmaskin (by phone), Gary Dymtryk, Maria Fontellio, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Naomi Pinson, and Alicia Zeh-Dean.

Absent: Avner Fink, Zahra Kanji and Bet MacArthur

Alternates: Donald Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Documents/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Minutes from July 9, 2015

Minutes:

A motion to approve the July 9, 2015 minutes was seconded and passed.

Chair's Report: Nicole Horton-Stimpson reported that a sub-committee met for the October employment event. Oce Harrison will be the guest speaker. Ms. Harrison is the Director of the New England ADA Center, one of 10 national ADA centers. The date of the event is Wednesday, October 28, and it will be in the morning. It will start with networking from 9:30-10am, followed by Ms. Harrison speaking for about 45 minutes and then a question and answer period. Our target audience is employers around Cambridge, as well as City employees.

Ms. Horton-Stimpson said that the committee is going to create a flyer about the event and disseminate the information directly to employers around Cambridge. If members are interested in helping with that, please let the Chair know. Maria Fontellio volunteered to assist with this.

Michael Muehe said that the notice can also be sent out to the Cambridge business associations and that he will speak with the City Manager about encouraging employees to attend.

The plan is to do a separate event in the evening sometime in November or early 2016.

The Abilities Expo is being held Friday, September 18 through Sunday, September 20 at the Boston Convention Center and CCPD will be sharing a table with Ways2Go again this year.

Ms. Horton-Stimpson reported that she has reached out to Gateway Arts Center in Brookline about the possibility of getting a tour of the center. She said that the City may be able to provide transportation. Gateway Arts a vocational center for artists with psychiatric and/or developmental disabilities. They have a variety of different mediums. It's a workshop that gives a percentage of sales to the artists. There is a fine arts and crafts store there as well.

Don Summerfield said that there are also some artists with brain injuries at Gateway.

Public Works Update: Debbie Cheng reported that Kathy Watkins has been working on finding a location for the Central Square public toilet. Additionally, the plan is for the Harvard Square public toilet to be installed this fiscal year.

She said that she will touch base with John Nardone about scheduling a meeting on snow and ice.

Don Summerfield reported that the Havana Club on Green Street has received permission from Bill Dwyer to put a carpet out on the sidewalk outside their establishment until they receive a sidewalk obstruction permit. He said that the carpet is an obstruction.

Police Community Liaison Update: Kate Thurman reported on behalf of Deputy Superintendent Jack Albert. She said that there has been lots of confusion with police officers on how they should be enforcing the illegal parking in a Harvard Shuttle Bus stop located on JFK Street. The signage is not the traditional MBTA Bus stop signs and our officers have not been enforcing it as a Bus Stop. It is often used by CVS as a loading zone. Jeff Parenti of the Traffic Dept. has agreed to look into adding more traditional signage to eliminate any confusion on the part of our officers and vehicle operators.

We also received a complaint that people were parking in the access aisle next to disability parking spots in a City lot. Deputy Superintendent Albert sent a training memo out to all police personnel on what is expected should they observe or are made away of vehicles of any type parking in an access aisle.

Disability Reframed Film Series: Michael Muehe said 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.

He 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 the U.S. DOT has put out some proposed changes for paratransit fares. The Ride is the paratransit service in Greater Boston. Currently, paratransit systems are allowed to charge up to double the regular bus fare for a one-way ride. The MBTA raised paratransit rates from \$2 to \$4 a few years ago. After protests, they agreed to reduce it to \$3. The proposed regulation would allow paratransit to charge more than double the regular bus fare. He said that he would like to send a letter on behalf of the Commission to the DOT opposing the proposed regulations. Individuals may also comment on the proposed regulations.

Sandy Durmaskin made a motion to oppose the proposed regulations. The motion was seconded and passed with all 8 votes that were present.

Mr. Muehe reported that Thelonius Monkfish, a Cambridge restaurant, has expanded, nearly doubling their capacity. In the process, they constructed new restrooms that are not accessible. The architect thought that because they already have two accessible restrooms in the old part of the restaurant, they didn't have to

make the new ones accessible. However, MAAB regulations require all new restrooms to be accessible. The architect has now filed for a variance from this regulation. He said that even if they are granted a variance, the ADA still requires that the new restrooms be accessible, so an individual could still file a complaint with the DOJ.

Sandy Durmaskin made a motion to oppose variances of the construction or renovation of restrooms at this restaurant or anywhere else in Cambridge. The motion was passed by all 8 votes.

Mr. Muehe said that the Inspectional Services Department does have an accessibility analyst. When an application for a building permit is received, it is assigned to a building inspector, who reviews it and is supposed to refer it to the access analyst. Unfortunately, that did not happen in this case. Ultimately, though, the architect is responsible for designing building components that meet various codes, including MAAB and ADA regulations. This is one reason why architects carry liability insurance.

He reported having a board orientation in August for new members and said that he and Kate Thurman are always happy to put together a presentation.

The second round of participatory budgeting is taking place now. Mr. Muehe worked with Nicole Horton-Stimpson to put together a proposal for a universal design playground. One of the local Cambridge papers included a blurb about the proposal.

The State has launched a series of public listening sessions on disparate employment outcomes, looking at disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities. They will be having one in Boston on October 14 at 5pm. The location has not yet been set.

Mr. Muehe reported that he, Nicole Horton-Stimpson and Kate Thurman attended a meeting for local commissions on disabilities hosted by the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

Mr. Muehe said that former CCPD member JoAnn Haas, who played a regular role in keeping sidewalks clear in the winter, encouraged current members to take on this project. Elizabeth Dean-Clover commended JoAnn Haas's hard work keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman said that the office is using a new database to track interactions, which should make for a more efficient work flow.

She also encouraged members to consider formally adopting the new Accessible Icon.

Maria Fontellio made a motion that the City use the Accessible icon on signage going forward. The motion was seconded and passed with all 8 votes.

New Business:

Naomi Pinson reported that psychiatric inpatients have 5 fundamental rights. Recently, a bill passed giving patients access to fresh air. However, she said that the bill is written in such a way that it is almost meaningless. The Dept. of Mental Health is holding a public hearing on the Fresh Air Bill from 2-4pm on September 15 at 25 Staniford Street in Boston.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM

Respectfully submitted by Kate Thurman

