



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL PLACE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201
617.635.3682 | fax 617.635.2726 | TTY 617.635.2541 | www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions

Minutes for Thursday, September 24, 2015
9th Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chairperson

Allegra Stout
Vice Chairperson

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(AS) Allegra Stout (KC) Kimyatta Campbell (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (MM) Marc (Moses) Mallard (CR) Carl Richardson Not Present: (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winske (KR) Kyle Robidoux	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KQ) Kathryn Quigley (JD) Jessica Doonan (CM) Chris Morawski
Guests: Ryan Lorey, EDENS; Cathy Bell, Stantec; Robert Ricchi, Fort Point	

July Meeting Minutes:

Carl Richardson (CR) motioned to accept July minutes, Marc Mallard (MM) seconded motion. Minutes approved by Board

Guest Presentation: South Bay Architecture Project

Ryan Lorey (RL) introduced himself and went through the South Bay Town Center project highlighting accessibility features such as extra wide paths of travel and curbless sidewalks. He then opened the discussion up for questions such as automatic doors, hiring people with disabilities, and staff training regarding working with people with disabilities. The Board offered themselves to the project as a resource moving forward.

Chair Report: Allegra Stout

Allegra Stout (AS) presented the Chair report on behalf of heather Watkins who was unable to attend. AS mentioned that on August 10th Carol Steinberg wrote an article on access for the Boston Globe that mentioned two bills House 1021 regarding access to accessible medical equipment in hospitals and Senate bill 1323 regarding the guidelines of the Architectural Access Board (AAB). AS will send out info regarding the bills and the Board will vote on writing letters of support during the October meeting. CR noted that the bill regarding the AAB has been brought up multiple times over the years. Jessica Doonan brought up that Senate Bill 1323 would also change the language from “handicapped” to “person with a disability”

AS then went over the process of enacting remote participation as per the Open Meeting Law. The requirements Have a quorum of Board members and have the vote recorded in the minutes. Can vote to either apply it to a single meeting or all meetings moving forward. AS made the motion that pursuant to MGL C30A section 20E we now vote to authorize remote participation generally to the commissions meetings. CR seconded the motion and through a roll call vote it was unanimously approved by all present.

Commissioner Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC opened her report informing that Board that effective immediately Ben Roux has stepped down as a Board Member and there will now be an open seat on the Board. KMC will take a look at the letters in interest she has from the most recent appointments, will post the opening, and welcomes recommendations from the Board. KMC then informed the Board that Chanel Smitherman, a recent architecture graduate from Wentworth, will be starting October 5th as the Architecture Access Project Coordinator in the office. She will be working closely with Kathryn Quigley and will serve as link between AAB and the Board moving forward. Chris Morawski is also working on updating the website and would like to touch base with each Board member to get their bios and a photo. KMC announced that City hall now has two completely ADA compliant single stall gender neutral bathrooms on the 5th floor.

KMC attended the Disability Summit at the Abilities Expo and presented on the ADA in regards to Title II and how access to local government services has changed over the 25 years the ADA has been in effect. Highlights from the presentation included the City Hall access path, captioning for City Council Hearings and the curb cut transition plan. KMC and staff participated in the Abilities Expo along with Kimyatta Campbell, Zary Amirhosseini, and MM. KMC noted that both she and MM serve on the Disability Housing Task Force for the City of Boston and the next meeting with focus on creating action steps moving forward. Go Boston 2030 is also a committee that KMC and JW serve on working to envision transportation options for the future and is still looking for public comments if the Board would like to contribute. The State Task force on Placard Abuse will be releasing their report on their findings soon and KMC will make her parking recommendations to Mayor Walsh after the report.

KMC then mentioned a few events coming up. Corresponding with Disability Employment Awareness Month KMC will be giving a Lunch and Learn session on October 2nd at City Hall called “Welcoming People with Disabilities into the Workplace”. Disability Mentoring Day will also occur on October 6th and will be a partnership with JetBlue. The Next Disability reframed film screening will take place November 7th at the Cambridge Public Library at 2pm and the film will be “La Casa Linda.”

AS asked if the Board meetings moving forward will have ASL interpreters and KMC noted that interpreters will be secured on a need basis and all requests should go to KMC and JD.

Architectural Report: Kathryn Quigley

KMC gave the architectural report for Kathryn Quigley (KQ) in her absence. KMC reported on Boston Accessible; a proof of concept wayfinding app the City has developed to allow residents and visitors to map out the most accessible routes in Boston. KQ is working with the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Boston Transportation Department and a pilot is projected to be completed in a few months.

KMC noted that KQ is on the Vision Zero Task Force which is an initiative through Boston Transportation Department (BTD). Vision Zero is part of a national initiative striving to have zero pedestrian deaths by more effective transportation design. Data is being looked at from Boston Police, Boston Bikes, and BTD to come up with a plan to significantly decrease pedestrian fatalities and accidents. KQ is also on the subcommittee of the AAB that is looking at making the AAB equivalent to the Americans with Disabilities Act so that enforcement can happen at a state level.

There are two architectural planning meeting opportunities that are open to the Board and the public. One meeting is for South Boston regarding Dorchester Ave and is October 1st. The second is for Jamaica Plain and Roxbury and will be held on September 30th. JD will send out the details to the Board.

Old Business

No Old Business.

Old Action Items

JD noted the letters regarding sandwich boards and Uber that the Board voted on will be delivered to the corresponding offices tomorrow.

New Business

MM explained that while he was at the Abilities Expo a concern was brought to his attention regarding tactical warning strips pointing into the center of intersections. KMC explained that these were called apex curb cuts and are only allowed for technical reasons or are old curb cuts that were installed before they were allowed. KMC will send out the three reasons in which apex curb cuts are allowed.

AS inquired if there are any regulations regarding accessibility related to restaurant menus. CR noted that currently there are not and that he would look into if there has been any work related to it. KMC noted that she can look into it as part of the best practices related to the Main Streets program.

New Action Items

JD noted that the October Board meeting has been moved to October 29th to accommodate the Disability Policy Consortium Annual Meeting on October 22nd in which AS is being honored.

Public Input

CR made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by MM and unanimously approved by all present.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.



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KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Room 900, 9th Floor

Thursday September 24, 2015

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chair

Allegra Stout
Vice Chair

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

REVISED AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Architectural Access Update – *Kathryn Quigley*
- South Bay Architectural Project – *Robert Ricchi, Fort Point Associates, Inc.*
- Old Business
- Old Action Items –
 - *Advisory Board Letters re. Sandwich Boards on Sidewalks and Uber*
- New Business
- New Action Items
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: October 29, 5:30-7:30pm

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

All meetings held by the City of Boston are required to be accessible for persons with disabilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accommodations are available upon request to any person who requires alternately formatted materials, auxiliary aids, or another accommodation to ensure effective communication and access to attend meetings held by City departments and programs.

Please allow at least 2 weeks to arrange for accommodations. Requests for accommodations may be sent to the contact person for the meeting, or may be forwarded to: Kristen McCosh, City of Boston Disability Commissioner and ADA Coordinator, at kristen.mccosh@cityofboston.gov or 617-635-3682 (voice) or 617-635-2541 (TTY).

To participate in this meeting by phone please dial:

Conference Phone Number: 1-888-322-7166

Participant Code: 4074173#

