

**City of Worcester
Commission on Disabilities**

Type of Meeting: Regular
Date and Time Convened: September 9, 2009
Place Where Convened: Esther Howland City Council Chamber
Members Present: John Cronin, Jacqueline Norton, Dawn Clark
Members Absent: Rachel Brown, David Perry, Joseph Sinasky
Staff Present: Fran Manocchio
Public Present: Mike Kennedy, Herb Creamer
Guests: Dave Johnson, Quinsigamond Village Community Center

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.
2. **Announcements.** Dave Johnson distributed flyers regarding upcoming job fair at Quinsigamond Village Community Center.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes.** Hold until October meeting.
3. **Information and Education:** Paul Moosey, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Public Works and Parks, will attend the October 14, 2009. Topics for discussion will include: \$200,000 annual set-aside for ADA work, sidewalks in need of repair, and audible signals at cross walks.
4. **Communications and Reports.**
 - a. **Chairperson's Report.** Dawn stated that she heard that Center for Living & Working is planning an event next month. Commissioners were invited to participate in a planning committee; John Cronin volunteered. The event will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at Worcester Public Library, in the afternoon.
 - b. **Director's Report.** Fran stated that she has been fielding approximately three-four phone calls a day regarding disability related issues. Some questions are from citizens outside the Worcester area. Based upon specific circumstances, Fran has made home visits in order to take complaints and process intakes. Fran will attend the Massachusetts Office on Disability two-day community access training in Boston on September 23 and 24. Fran continues to receive complaints regarding transportation issues.

5. **Emergency Preparedness.** We are preparing for the community meeting which will be held on Thursday, September 17 at Worcester Public Library from 1:00 – 3:00 pm to review the draft Registry. Chris Montiverdi, Deputy Director of the City’s Emergency Management Dept. and Kerri Clark, City’s MMRS program within Public Health, will assist Dawn Clark with facilitation of the meeting. Further discussion regarding Worcester Public Schools as primary and secondary shelters and the need to fully inventory accessibility at every site. There was also discussion regarding ADRC (Aging Disability Resource Center) for Central Massachusetts for elder and disabled populations. Recommendation made that Fran contact Bob Dwyer at Central MA Area Agency on Aging for more details.
6. **Transition Plan, Accessibility, and Access Board Issues.** As stated above, Fran will be attending a two-day training accessibility seminar in October with the MA Commission on Disability. She will make recommendations for a plan to reengage city officials with a transition plan.
7. **Transportation and TPAG.** Dawn announced that TPAG met yesterday and discussed the WRTA complaint process. Jacqueline noted that the WRTA needs a minibus to help with transportation; she commented that the City Manager’s Neighborhood Cabinet is working on this issue.
8. **Old Business**
 - a. **Neighborhood Conversations.** The series of conversations, co-sponsored by Common Pathways and Commission on Disabilities, were successful. Several consumers made connections with each other. Dawn offered special thanks to Center for Living and Working who served as fiscal host and sent out a mailing to their consumers. When notes from the series are complete, Dawn will forward to all Commissioners. We may incorporate themes raised in the conversations with the Commission’s FY2010 work plan.
 - b. **In-City Times Response.** Fran reported that the response to the In-City Times article will have 3 signatures – Dawn Clark, Chair, Commission on Disabilities; Cheryl Pope, Chair, Human Rights Commission; and, Mable Millner, Chair, City Manager’s Community Coalition on Bias and Hate. Fran is collecting signatures and expects the letter to go out the end of the week.
 - c. **ADA Grievance Procedure.** Motion to approve the ADA Grievance Procedure as provided by the Massachusetts Office on Disability was offered by John Cronin; second by Jacqueline Norton. Approved unanimously. Fran will forward to the Law Department.
 - d. **Move to City Hall.** No further news at this time.
9. **New Business**
 - a. **Petition: crosswalks, pavers, ramp at City Hall.** The Commission will discuss further next month with Deputy Commissioner of Public Works & Parks, Paul Moosey. Jacqueline Norton commented on a regional mobility study conducted. John Cronin identified Benson Ave. as another street requiring attention.
 - b. **Press Conference Update.** Fran will coordinate with the Office of the City Manager to hold a press conference on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 prior to City Council meeting.

- c. **Snow Removal Resource Guide.** Dawn noted that Common Pathways, with assistance from Office on Disability, Center for Living & Working, and REDD worked collaboratively last year on a resource guide. Dawn would like to add the Commission on Disabilities to this year's guide.
- d. **Announcements.** Mike Kennedy stated that the AAB is planning a site visit at the YMCA's Central Branch following up on a member's complaint regarding path of travel. Herb Creamer raised concern about displays in retail establishments that hinder path of travel for customers using mobility devices. Dawn suggested that the Commission send out correspondence to local supermarkets and pharmacies regarding federal regulations. Mike Kennedy will forward Fran specific regulations.
- e. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Fran Manocchio
Director, Office of Human Rights and Disabilities
Staff Liaison, Commission on Disabilities

2009-9-9 Minutes