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WORCESTER CITY CLERK

**Commission on Disabilities**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 2011**  
**City Hall – Esther Howland Chamber**  
**4 PM – 6 PM**

2011 MAY 12 A 11: 00

Attendees: Grace Clark, David Perry, Lynn Towler, Steve Stolberg, John Cronin, Rachel Brown, Herbert Cremer

Absent: Mary Healey

Staff: Christina Andreoli, Derek Brindisi, Dawn Clark

Guests: Don Birch, Rob Antonelli, Matt Labovites

- Meeting called to Order at 4:05 PM. Chair suspended the agenda to allow guests to speak first.
- First Guest: Don Birch from Leggatt McCall provided an update on CitySquare. He provided the Commission with an introduction of the CitySquare project. He indicated he will attend future meetings. We discussed the possibility of a joint Commission and Planning Board meeting when the project is brought forward. The Commission raised concerns, such as bricks on the sidewalks and encouraged the use of stamped brick technique (which is DPW endorsed), as well audible lighting, benches and localized areas. Don indicated that they are following the streetscape guidelines for CitySquare from the City. Christina will send to Commission members for review.
- Second Guest: Robert Antonelli, Assistant Commissioner for Parks and Matthew Labovites, Assistant Commissioner for DPWP to discuss the Green Hill Park Dam Project. It is a high hazard dam. Rachel questioned the maximum slope, and Rob indicated he would get back to her on the exact numbers. Construction is set to begin in July.
- Motion to Accept the March Minutes Allowed.

### **Elections**

- The Commission is willing to participate in the training of the wardens and poll workers on an annual basis with the Elections Staff.
- Discussion on what can be done to improve the elections process for people with disabilities took place. The Commission suggested an initial meeting with David Rushford and the Chair, as well as Christina and Derek to determine opportunities. One suggestion was to empower a liaison for the entire day who would be escorted by a police officer to review/ monitor the AutoMark systems at each polling location, any accessibility issues. The Commission agreed that this was a positive step, and also suggested the designation of an ADA Coordinator for each polling location. Chair suggested that all wardens and poll workers sign a pledge sheet that they attended

training, reviewed information, etc. Herb suggested using the video from last year to assist.

- The Commission suggested that a general phone # be posted for people to call with complaints about elections.
- Rachel reminded the Commission to send a Letter to the Editor prior to the Elections to remind voters of their right to use the AutoMark.
- Anna Maria College Polling Location – The issue was referred to Inspectional Services for follow-up. Commissioner Kelly will report back to the Commission. If it is not rectified in time for voting, the Commission will not support this site as a polling location for next election cycle.

### **Snow Moratorium**

- Derek spoke with the City Solicitor. The City Council is likely waiting for a recommendation from the Administration. Derek will follow-up on this issue. Commission reiterated that this needs to be resolved for next season.

### **City Council Chambers**

- Commission was to review the Chamber space to determine any issues. One suggestion was to add an “accessibility” statement to the front page of the City’s web page, agenda and minutes, notifications for meetings. Next step would be to ensure that these functions were accessible, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired.
- Commission discussed possibility of televising meetings to allow more people the opportunity to view these meetings, especially for those who can’t attend. Suggestion was to televise half of the meeting (4 PM – 5 PM) to allow for more candid discussion in the second half. No vote was taken.

### **MOD Training**

- Herb suggested that a map be given to attendees for the May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> trainings. Steve believed there was a packet of information being sent to those who registered. Will follow-up with Mike Kennedy.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

- Information was sent via mail to a complete mailing list. Press release to go next.
- Deborah was going to look into technology programs for visually-impaired (Zumatek and JAWS) for the City to evaluate.

### **TPAG**

- Steve said he will have a letter to WRTA ready next month.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Adding Derek Brindisi's as ADA Coordinator to the Web site.
- Accessibility issue at corner of Commercial and Front Street. Christina indicated that she would put in a work order.