

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA – December 11, 2018 6:00 PM
REVERE CITY HALL - 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Ralph DeCicco - Chair Rick Freni - Vice Chair
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Salute to the Flag

Roll Call of Members: Present were Ralph DeCicco, Rick Freni, Enza Goodwin, Michelle DeBellis, Pauline Perno and Albert Sheridan.

Absent was Robert Bent

Ralph DeCicco asked for a moment of silence for Michael Carroll also known as Squad 51 who passed away. He then asked for a 2nd moment of silence for little Adrianna Mejia- Rivera who passed away tragically Sunday night by an impaired driver and also for continued prayers for 2 month old Natasha Mejia-Rivera who is in intensive care.

Item#1 Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2018

Rick Freni made the motion. Motion was 2nd by Enza Goodwin.

Item #2: Introduction of new Commission Member:

Albert Sheridan

Albert spoke briefly and said he is looking forward to be a part of the Commission and working hard for the residents.

Item #3: Update regarding All Inclusive Art Program

Rick Freni spoke about the success of the program and how Diane Cassinello and Miss Sally have been paramount in its success. He stated the parents, guardians, and children have all been very happy with the class. Rick Freni also mentioned that they are extending the Art program one additional week to December 20th, 2018.

Item #4: Scheduled Events

Enza Goodwin read the following Sepac events.

- **SEPAC Recap for November:**
SEPAC hosted 2 events in November. We held a fundraiser at Fuddruckers. Families dined on great food while supporting an important cause.
- **Boston vs. Bullies offered a presentation to parents about bullying. We had Dr. Vadala, Ms. Joanna Rizzo, and School Committee Member Stacey Rizzo joined us as well.**
- **SEPAC December:**

- **We will host our holiday party on Sunday, December 16th from 12-2 at RMA. Families are encouraged to RSVP and attend. More information will be available on the Commission website. We are seeking donations of all kinds. Please consider supporting us.**
- **On Monday, December 17th at 6:00 Ms. Jackie Roy will present to parents for our monthly meeting on ABA strategies and tips.**

Item #5: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday December 11, 2018.

Ralph DeCicco spoke about the Smart 911 app and sent it to the appropriate department heads in the city to see if there is any interest. He stated that the Smart 911 app links your cell phone with your home address. He then spoke about the AAB bill that was not passed and brought to fruition in 2017 and that CODA will again work this year on trying to get it passed with the State legislature. It would consolidate laws/permits so guidelines are unison across the board.

Item #6: Old Business-

- **Continued Discussion and Ideas on COD Sub Committees and Duties:**

Ralph DeCicco asked the commission to speak about their ideas regarding sub committees.

Rick Freni stated he would like to be more involved in the high school and post grad students of special needs. Perhaps he could help the middle school program too.

Enza Goodwin said she and Michelle DeBellis would focus on early childhood and elementary aged to middle school.

Pauline said there is lack of support in the high school as her general ed child fell behind so she knows there is a great need for special education students from ninth grade to post grad and she is willing to help Rick Freni with supporting them.

Ralph DeCicco asked Albert Sheridan if he could focus on the general population over 22 as well as the seniors. Ralph also mentioned that he would ask Robert Bent to be part of this subcommittee.

Rick Freni then stated that after school activities for students are lacking and if that the Revere League building would be ideal.

Enza Goodwin then asked Ralph DeCicco on the update of the Revere League building. Ralph stated that Michelle from the Revere League board came into his office last month asking questions about the COD and how we want access to the building. Ralph informed her that herself or Peter Delgreco were suppose to contact Bob Marra from the Mayor's office as was discussed in a meeting between himself, Bob Marra, Peter Delgreco and herself with the Leagues ideas within the next few days of that meeting and we would have our ideas. We put together all our ideas and programs that we would like to see within a day of meeting. As of the morning that she came to the COD office Bob Marra has not received any information from them and I stated this to her and said that she should email him that day and explain why or why not. As of Friday morning the 7th of December no one has contacted Bob Marra or the Mayor's office from the Revere League of Special Needs. Enza Goodwin asked if Ralph DeCicco got confirmation that the league building is to be used for community services. Ralph said from what he found out, the answer is yes.

Ralph DeCicco stated he will continue looking grants to apply for in order to start more programs for all the disabled residents of Revere

The Revere website is being redesigned and he would like to have the commissions input. Rick Freni suggested headshots for each commission on the COD page.

Rick Freni also stated there is progress with the current High School administration regarding the support of special education and the activities we are promoting at the COD.

Item #7: Late Items: (Will be discussed if any arise after posting of Monthly Agenda)

Ralph DeCicco said there is no word on the State Municipal Grant he applied for. The grant is supposed to be announced sometime this December but he has yet to hear and hoping it is good news. The 125K grant is a planning grant which would be used to be used for studies on city buildings, streets and also help us complete a self evaluation.

Rick Freni spoke about teacher Talia Mimmo from RHS special education. He said they are starting up some vocational work for the students with the first being the baking of cupcakes at local bakery Lubertos on Broadway Revere. The owner, Mr. Daniel Luberto is happy to assist with the support of Chairman Ralph DeCicco who was able to secure this business for us. Talia Mimmo along with a few students with Autism, Ralph and Rick of the COD will decorate and sell the cupcakes at RHS Friday night home games for the girls and boys basketball games. Both Coaching staffs and parent groups supported this cause. The students will be decorating and selling until next month where they will watch the process of mixing ingredients and baking the cupcakes from scratch. The cupcakes will be sold for \$2 each.

Enza Goodwin asked where the money would be going. Rick Freni responded by saying Talia Mimmo will have a petty cash account set up for the learning skills classrooms where the cupcake proceeds will go into. She can access it anytime to pay for field trips, or community walks to local stores and help the students learn to order and shop for themselves.

Item #8: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback **Ralph DeCicco said we will skip this as no residents present.**

Item #9: Next Steps

Ralph DeCicco spoke about following up on the sub-committee idea, HS Cupcakes with Talia Mimmo, Working on grant with Revere Cares, and mentioned there are only two classes left for the Art Program.

Item #10 Reminder-

Rick Freni read the following.

The Commission on Disabilities has office hours on Fridays from 8:15-12:15 in the Veterans Services Office in the rear of the Legion Building at 249R Broadway which is next door to City Hall. You can call for an appointment if you would like but do not need one. You will be able to talk to someone from our 311 Constituent Service Center on other days when you call our office at 781-286-8267 They will be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like a call back from our office they can transfer you to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as they can. Also please let us know if you would like something discussed or brought up and added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can let us know if you would like to come and speak on any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Ralph DeCicco wished the COD and all that are watching a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

Motion to Adjourn: Rick Freni made the motion which was 2nd by Enza Goodwin. Adjournment- Ralph DeCicco said the Next COD Meeting will be Tuesday January 8, 2019 at 6:00 PM.