

**CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON, DISABILITIES**  
**AGENDA – May 8, 2018**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL**  
**Ralph DeCicco Chair     Rick Freni Co-Chair**  
**Email: [disabilities@revere.org](mailto:disabilities@revere.org)     Phone: 781-286-8267**



**Salute to the Flag**

**Roll Call of Members by Ralph Decicco.**

**PRESENT: Rick Freni, Enza Goodwin, Michelle DeBellis, Robert Bent, Ralph Decicco.**

**ABSENT: Paul Mazzone and Dave Haesy**

**Item #1: Dimple Rana from the Revere Healthy Initiatives Department was contacted by Community Work Services. This company is a non-profit organization assisting individuals with barriers to employment through training and employment services. Their program programming offers a career exploration program for young adults aged 16 – 22 with learning disabilities. The goal of the program is to help these young people develop their soft skills and then help them find volunteer/internship opportunities in career areas of their interest. Presently they had a student who is a Revere High School Senior. Dimple thought that our 2 departments would be a great place for him and we interviewed the candidate and found that we would be able to help out and allow him to get some experience and receive the training and hours that he needs.**

**NO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS AT THIS TIME.**

**Item #2: State MOD Regional Commission on Disabilities Meeting was hosted in Revere on Tuesday May 2.**

**Ralph DeCicco updated the members about discussions at the meeting regarding about Emergency Awareness Programs that the MOD offers and possibly bring some of these to Revere. Also touched on the new MA driver License and ID regarding entering federal buildings. Finally mentioned they discussed the ongoing problem regarding abuse with handicap placards and plates and how it is being researched statewide.**

**Robert Bent spoke about programs and training and based it on his own personal experience and how it can be helpful to the city.**

**Ralph thanked MOD Director Dave D’Arcangelo and Assistant Director Jeff Dougan for their input and for bringing the MOD Regional Meeting to Revere.**

**Item #3: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday May 2. Items on the Agendas included continued discussion from last month’s call regarding:**

- **ADA Education and Reform Act” (H.R. 620)**
- **Alternative Housing Voucher Program, Massachusetts State Budget line item #7004-9030, and ask that you support increasing its funding to \$7.7 million dollars in the FY19 budget, from the current level of \$5 million**
- **Strong support for Senate Bill 1379 and House Bill 2498 “An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board”. S. 1379 and H. 2498 would align our state access regulations of the Architectural Access Board (AAB), with the federal architectural regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Aligning the AAB with the ADA is imperative to ensuring access to employment, housing, and equal civil and human rights for all people with disabilities across the commonwealth.**

**Ralph mentioned they are also adding employment back into the Senate Bill.**

**Item #4: Reminder of Scheduled Events for April: (Along with Events that took place in March)**

- **Autism Awareness month was a huge success. Children and families enjoyed many events in and around the community. Most were free of charge. Thank you to Revere Public Schools, Revere Recreation, Row Row to Revere, and Till Inc for your support.**
- **We held our first annual Walk for Autism on April 21st. We had over 300 walkers. We can’t wait to do it again next year! Please check out our Facebook page for more information**
- **The next SEPAC meeting will take place on 5/23 6:00 PM at The Revere League for Special Needs 200 Winthrop Ave. The Agenda will be their Basic Rights Meeting**

**Enza spoke out the wonderful work the SEPAC team did during the month of April. From non-uniform days at the schools, tee shirt sales, and the Autism Walk, she stated that SEPAC raised \$14,000 during April. Those funds will help children around the city by hosting various programs and outings. She thanked Dr. Vadala and TILL INC for their private space for families to meet. She stated to contact Peter Delgreco at SEPAC for more information.**

**Rick thanked Enza for a job well done at the Walk and appreciated that they thought of inviting his daughter Olivia to sing the National Anthem.**

#### **Item #5: Old Business.**

- **Update and Discussion About the Disabled Children and Young Adult Art Pilot Program**

**Rick spoke about the Arts program and how they may possible have a weekly location set for the summer.**

**Robert B. provided insight as well regarding Ricks location and is looking forward to this.**

- **Update On Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) Working Group Meetings. (CTN Population)**

**Ralph stated last Monday's meeting was canceled and they are waiting for a reschedule date.**

#### **Item #6: Late Items.**

**Ralph mentioned started subcommittees to help various groups of people with Autism and developmental disabilities across the city.**

**Enza and Michelle said it was a great idea and their comfort level would be to work with children up to age 12 since that is ages of their children.**

**Rick and Rob chimed in saying they can help the older kids up to post grade 22 yrs of age. Rick said his experience with his son who went through the system and now is 23yrs felt he has much better grasp of the middle school/high school population.**

**Ralph mentioned the names of the subcommittees are starting with the word disabled.**

**Rick stated a name change to children of all abilities.**

**Enza said it is about the work we do and we will figure out the names later.**

**Rob stated he would like to do presentations and how people will live with disability and perhaps visit the schools.**

**Rick then started a discussion that turned very passionat as he spoke about the lack of availability space for children with special needs after school. He stated he went to the Revere League of Special needs twice about 5 and 6 years ago. He stated he asked the Revere League of Special needs board to allow him, a few teachers and 5 to 6 children with autism to rent their space once or twice a week for 90 minutes. He offered to pay the memberships and also offered any professional services the building may need. The boards response was it would not be fair to the current members who all have full time jobs. They would not have the opportunity to play for 90 minutes because they work. Rick said he told them these kids are 14 -22 years old and will all be supervised. Your members are in the 50's and would not be a good mix. These children who want to come here just want to work on their social skills with their peers and teachers, play checkers or cards and go home. Rick said the board responded no, although they did say they would take the membership money since they building is open once a month for a member dance. Rick said the teachers and parents spoke about a place like this to help their children grow but the board said no. Rick said he could not believe what he was hearing and it was a disgrace.**

**Enza thanked Rick for sharing that story as she had a similar horror story with the Revere League of Special Needs. She said they allowed her group of young students to hang there once a week but after two weeks the board said no. No accidents happened or property destroyed they just did not want anyone in the building. She was very passionate like Rick explaining her story how the Revere League of Special Needs building is grossly misrepresenting itself and the city.**

**Rick went back to stating he reached out to previous administrations and councilors but has never received an answer. He also mentioned it may be illegal with the Revere League building is doing as the city turned this building over to them several years ago stating they must allow the special needs community to meet there.**

**Ralph said they run a daycare out of there and it is a for profit group. This is a nonprofit building so there are many issues coming into play and the current administration will look into this.**

**Item #7: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback**

**Ralph said all members of this board should have the Revere Id badge and to visit HR.**

**Robert brought up the idea of the commission setting up a table for summer events including the concerts on the legion lawn and the sand castles.**

**Michelle said we should have a group meeting for these summer events and decided who can attend each event.**

**Ralph said Nick Romano in the Mayor's Office will be working to publicize our COD meetings.**

**Item #8: Reminder:**

**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 it. Our Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.**

**Ralph mentioned to look for the Disability Accessibility Surveys which can be picked up at City Hall along with being available at the Veterans Service's Office where we are located and online at the City of Revere's homepage under the Disabilities tab.**

**Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday June 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM**