

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA – August 14, 2018 6:00 PM
REVERE CITY HALL - 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Ralph DeCicco - Chair Rick Freni - Vice Chair
Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267



Salute to the Flag

Roll Call of Members

PRESENT: Ralph DeCicco, Rick Freni, Michelle DeBellis, Enza Goodwin

Absent: Robert Bent, Paul Mazzone, and David Haesy.

Item #1: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday August 8th.

Mr. DeCicco mentioned that this call there will be a \$1.15 million increase in this year's State budget for AHVP vouchers which are for disabled residents throughout the commonwealth via State Housing.

Item #2: Communication and Discussions with DCR Commissioner Roy regarding accessibility at Revere Beach

Mr. DeCicco commented on Elderly accessibility and the disabled on how it is impossible to walk down on the beach. Soft to hard sand conversion in some parts make it very difficult and do not have Mobi mats or other accessible accommodations as other beaches do. Also stated the upkeep of beach, accessible floating devices for the disabled/elderly and the cleanliness of beach. Mentioned that the beach appears to have minimal handicap spots which may be below federal/state requirements. Wheel chairs have limited access to beach as most entrances are not ground level and require a step up. Compared to other beaches in the commonwealth it appears that America's first public beach may be lacking accessibility for seniors and the disabled. The COD will be scheduling a meeting with DCR in the near future to address these concerns and issues.

Item #3: July's Monthly Department Cluster Meeting with Mayors Office

Mr. DeCicco discussed issues and concerns that were brought up at that meeting and some of these are brought up under Item #5 below.

Item #5: Revere Recreation Discussions regarding programs for Children of All Abilities.
Mrs. Goodwin mentioned that she is waiting for a response from Nick Romano regarding Special Olympics. She mentioned she has several calls/emails into him. Mr. DeCicco said that this was brought up during his monthly cluster meeting with the Mayor's office and is being addressed and looked into.

Mr. Freni stated he sent a proposed schedule of fall/winter events to kickoff CAA (Children of All Abilities) events again. He is waiting for Parks and Rec Director to approve events/dates.

Item #6: Reminder of Scheduled Events for July and August

July recap:

Revere SEPAC offered numerous, free events on Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Families enjoyed animal and reptile shows along with beach and playground events.

August:

SEPAC offered our first ride and glide in which children and families could ride their bike or scooter in a safe setting along with members of the Revere Police Department.

TILL offered the Revere community an event at Sky Zone where families enjoyed a 2 hour jump and lunch session.

Fall:

SEPAC is planning its Fall offerings with a monthly meeting and a family event. More information will follow next month.

Mrs. Goodwin mentioned that SEPAC had their election and the elected officers are as follows: President Jen Duggan, VP Peter Delgreco, Sec. Michele DeBellis, and Treasurer Enza Goodwin.

Mrs. DeBellis discussed possible fall dance class program for all abilities which will be the same as the successful summer program run in Saugus and again funded by Row Row Row to Revere.

Item #7: Old Business-

- **Updates on HP Accessible Automatic Door Openers:**
Estimates have come in to the COD that were received by DPW Director Paul Argenzio and have been forwarded to the Mayor's office.
- **Continued Discussion and Ideas on COD Sub Committees and Duties:**
Tabled
- **Update on Children's Full Inclusion Art Program:**
Mr. Freni Tabled this.

- **Update On Accessibility Surveys:**

Mr. DeCicco mentioned that these surveys can be picked up at City Hall, or download from the website. They are also available at the COD office that is located within the Veterans office. He mentioned that it will be very helpful if we could get all the disabled resident or families to fill these out since they would be helpful for us to see what areas we need to work on and also be able to reach out to this demographic. This information would be a great help when we apply for state and federal grants to implement programs and infrastructure work for the disabled throughout our city

Item #8: Late Items: (Will be discussed if any arise after posting of Monthly Agenda)

Mr. Freni acknowledged the Little Ricky Foundation for Autism annual golf tourney on October- -6 at the Ould Newbury Golf Course and to call 781-704-1300 or go online for more info.

Mr. DeCicco mentioned that once again on behalf of the COD and City of Revere he applied for a state municipal grant. This grant if awarded would help our Commission establish a much needed self evaluation and transition plan/ transition. What this would consist of is we would be able to have Consultants to go through the city to see ADA issues. \$125K may be awarded in early December 2018 for this grant. This is the COD 3rd time applying for this grant.

Item #9: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback-

Resident who was present with her son who was present in wheelchair mentioned that she is looking for places where he can visit that are compassionate to Sensory disorder. Mentioned traffic light concerns and how son's behavior worsens with these issues. Asking to have bldg. for Led Lights in public setting for sensory issues since that environment would not cause a trigger. Also very concerned that Autism profiling may look like mental illness but is not, as it is more a sensory and sound issue. Looking to see how a sensory room or area can be created in public buildings. She recognizes the patterns and seeking to make awareness and how it affects people. She would like to start a group for Autism Protocol Creation and Neuro Profiling.

Mr. DeCicco discussed Handicap parking issues. Such as HP Placard Abuse, fights and arguments over handicap parking spots being used by non disabled vehicles and those that abuse the HP system.

Item #10: Next Steps-

Mr. Freni will follow up with Parks and Rec for the Children of All Abilities events.

Mr. Freni along with Mr. Bent will also try to finalize the Art program to begin this fall.

Mrs. DeBellis will find out about the fall dance lesson dates that will be paid by Row, Row to Revere for several students at a private studio in Saugus. Just like the summer program these lessons will be for special education students only.

Item #11 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 any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Mr. Freni made Motion to Adjourn and Mrs. DeBellis Seconded the motion

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday September 11, 2018 at 6:00 PM.