

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA – April 9, 2019 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 are Rick Freni, Enza Goodwin, Michelle DeBellis, Robert Bent, Pauline Perno, and Ralph DeCicco. Absent is Albert Sheridan.

Ralph DeCicco acknowledges the celebrated life of Vincent F. Cammarata who held several roles in city office during his 95 years on earth. A moment of silence was offered.

Item#1 Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2019

Robert Bent makes a motion to approved 3/12 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Enza Goodwin.

Ralph DeCicco asks Rick Freni to read Item 2.

Item #2: April is Autism Awareness Month. There are more children with autism than all childhood diseases combined. The CDC estimates 1 in 56 children have Autism, however when it comes to federal funding, ASD is at the bottom of the list. Sometimes a child can be diagnosed as young as 2 years old. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for a child's growth. Groups like SEPAC, the Little Ricky Foundation, and the Commission on Disabilities are needed in the battle against autism and to provide support and awareness in our community. There are walks for autism, comedy and dance nights for autism, all types of fundraising to help with supplies field trips and more but our number one goal is to have the Revere community become more aware of the prevalence of people with autism in the city. Awareness and acceptance is good for everyone. More info about ASD can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/research.html>. Thank you and God bless the people with autism and their caregivers and teachers.

Item #3: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday April 3, 2019. We had continued discussions regarding the vacant position at the AAB (Architectural Access Board) and if city and town Disability Commissions could send letters in support of having this position filled. (Our Commission would need to take a vote tonight on a letter that I have drafted to send to both Governor Baker and Diane Symonds who is the Commissioner at the Division of Professional Licensure who oversees the board.)

Ralph DeCicco reads item 3 and has a letter drafted by the COD Revere and asks for a vote on whether or not to send the letter for the vacant AAB position to Governor Baker and Diane Symonds the Commissioner at the DPL.

Rick Freni makes the motion to vote on the drafted letter and send it out as drafted. Ralph DeCicco asks for a Roll Call. It is voted on unanimously by all board members with the exception of Albert Sheridan who is absent from meeting.

Item#4: Update on State MOD ADA Planning Grant for FY 2019

Ralph DeCicco refers to attached letter for RFP advertised in local paper for request for bids. No questions.

Item #5: Scheduled April Events:

SEPAC Events:

- 1. Our 2nd annual Walk for Autism took place on Sunday, April 7th.**
- 2. SEPAC and Revere Recreation have partnered to offer free ice skating on Friday, April 12th from 6-8pm at the Cronin Rink.**
- 3. On Monday, April 29th, SEPAC will offer an open forum at our meeting to allow parents of children with special needs to come in to discuss any issues or concerns. This will take place beginning at 6pm at RHS.**

Enza Goodwin spoke about the upcoming events listed in Item 5 as well as the great success of the Autism Walk on Sunday April 7, 2019. She thanked all involved. Robert Bent and Michele DeBellis commented on the Walk event and how it was an amazing day and turnout. Rick Freni said he was proud of Michelle and Enza for the event they put on.

Ralph DeCicco asked about the Special Olympic Basketball program that ended recently. Enza Goodwin said it ended a few weeks ago but there is lots of room for improvement and she is looking to get a special Olympic Track and field program soon.

Ralph DeCicco commented on the field behind Paul Revere and possibly created a new track there as it is underutilized. Enza Goodwin then added that SEPAC has no location to call their own. She would also like a contact at the Mayor's office and Rec Department specifically for special education students. She would like a point of contact for athletics when it comes to special education students. Enza Goodwin stated she spoke to Special Olympics regarding funding for the point of contact and they stated there are several ways to get a funding for a position like this without taxing the community. Pauline Perno said she worked with different liaisons in several communities regarding a contact person for special education community and it is something that should be done here. She also stated that perhaps we can tap into Revere on The Move all other organizations for funding solutions to a liaison.

Item #6: Old Business- Ralph DeCicco stated none.

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

Ralph DeCicco mentioned the press release from RPS regarding the DESE upcoming visits and audits of the RPS system including special education. Enza Goodwin stated contact info on press release is in 4 languages. Ralph DeCicco stated to email him if anyone in the community would like a copy of the press release.

Ralph DeCicco stated he received a call from the First Congregation Church and they have medical equipment to donate to anyone in the city that needs it. They have wheel chairs and walkers. He stated to contact Laura Lee at 781 284 4158 for this free medical equipment or contact the commission directly.

Ralph DeCicco requested that if anyone in the city knows of a Handicap parking sign that is no longer required; please contact the Commission on Disabilities for removal so we can start the process.

**Item #8: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback-
Ralph DeCicco stated none.**

Item #9: Next Steps

Ralph DeCicco stated he would like a COD banner created when the next Fiscal Budget is released.

Item #10 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.

Rick Freni read Item #10.

Robert Bent welcomed Rick Freni back after his accident and wished Ralph DeCicco well with his upcoming surgery.

Motion to Adjourn: Robert Bent made motion to adjourn, Enza Goodwin 2nd motion.

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday May 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM.