

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
AGENDA – October 9, 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, and Robert Bent.

Item#1 Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2018

Rick Freni made motion to approve, Robert Bent seconds the motion.

Item #2: Michael Hinojosa Director of Revere Parks and Recreation will discuss and present information regarding programs, goals and update us on matters of concern. Mike Hinojosa spoke with Special Olympics regarding the young athletes program. There will be an 8 week program starting January 2019 for 2-7 years old for a basketball camp 12-130 PM each Saturday. During the same day but from 1:30-3:00 will for 8 - 22 year olds. Location is still not finalized but looking at the Paul Revere School again.

Enza Goodwin asked for snacks for the volunteers who help out all day long. She also asked would the Special Olympics provide shirts/supplies for the 8 week program. He would check with SO and report back.

Ralph DeCicco asked him about the location of equipment and where it will be housed. He said at the Rec Center originally but will be moved to locations as needed.

Michele DeBellis stated the Touch a Truck was a great event but due to rescheduling the event because of weather, there were no advertisements promoting the event and new date for earlier timeslots for children with sensory issues. Mr. Hinojosa said that they put it on social media as well as alerting the RPS via twitter and will keep that in mind in the future.

Rick Freni responded that previous events he supported with Mr. Hinojosa and the previous administration were promoted in the papers as well as flyers provided to the student body through their teachers and paras. He also mentioned the RPS no longer provides flyers for events like this but that all of this is promoted through twitter. Rick stated that unless parents see a flyer, a lot of them are not on twitter actively or aware of the events unless it is in their child's daily journal notebook which they take home each day.

Enza Goodwin agreed but that most parents do not look through the journal for updates or events. She asked Mike how they promote events and he mentioned that all events are on the Revere Rec website, flyers, and sent to RPS via social media.

Michelle DeBellis and Enza Goodwin asked Mr. Hinojosa if there is more they can do for the special needs community He mentioned that he is doing his best with the funding and staffing he has but needs more help.

Rick Freni responded to this and stated that Mr. Hinojosa is not a special education professional and is here to provide recreation for all citizens of Revere but needs our assistance for direction when it comes to dealing with the special needs community. Rick pointed out that he has the most experience working with special needs children and Mike is asked to run these programs for the kids and their families, but we need to provide him volunteers and guidance. This is a group effort between the Rec and the COD. Rick stated that Mike is doing a great job and thanked him for all he has done with and for the special needs community since he took over the Revere Rec .Rick also stated the previous Kids of All Ability events were a huge success. The baseball and soccer games had over 50 participants in each ranging from 3 to 22 years old. Rick stated that due to his cancer he was unable to initiate and run these events with Mr. Hinojosa and the Rec center in 2016 and 2017 but that he looks forward to starting it back up and get all the sporting events rolling again.

Item #3: Jennifer Duggan will discuss and present information regarding Revere SEPAC Michele DeBellis will speak in Jens absence per Ralph DeCicco.

Michele stated the Basic Rights Meeting will be held October 15 at the Revere High School at 6pm. The Halloween party for kids will be on Monday October 29th from 5 to 8pm at the Rec Center. There will be trick or treating and music. Michele asked that donations of candy are needed for the trick or treaters. Ralph DeCicco asked if the School Committee and City Council members could each donate a bag of candy to this event it would help make it a huge success.

Item #4: Scheduled Events for October

- **SEPAC meeting: See above**
- **All Inclusion Art Program- 6 weekly classes beginning Thursday October 25, 6:30 PM. Pre Registration is required and space is limited. Please see the Commission on Disabilities Facebook Page for more information.**

<https://www.facebook.com/reverecommissionondisabilities/>

Rick Freni stated the projects have been ordered and Ralph DeCicco responded they will be in this week. Rick F mentioned that 3 students have already signed up for this program and thanked his colleague Robert Bent for assisting with this project. Rick F then went onto thank Diane Cassinello who will be the instructor at all classes. Rick then stated that all children must be with a parent/guardian/adult to attend the Art Program and they can apply online to enroll under the new Facebook page that Ralph DeCicco created for the COD.

- **Starting in mid October the Dance Junction in Saugus is offering an all abilities fitness class for students ages 5 thru 9. Classes will be held every Saturday morning through June. 100 percent sponsored by our friends at Row Row Row Revere at no cost to the families. Lauren Angelo and her team have Special Educational backgrounds and ran a successful summer dance class for all abilities. We are very excited and looking forward to this wonderful fitness program. Michelle DeBellis stated the classes are wonderful and said that once the enrollment if full, kids will be put on waiting list.**

Item #5: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday October 3, 2018. A member discussed that in her community they are looking to make bike lanes for certain hours during the day in areas that remove HP parking spots. Also we had discussions and were informed that David D’Arcangelo who is the Director of the Massachusetts office of Disability (MOD) was recently appointed by Governor Baker as the New Commissioner of Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. We (CODA) are looking at drafting a letter to send to the appropriate people and agency in regards to their exploration and search for a New Director at MOD.

Item #6: Old Business-

- **Continued Discussion and Ideas on COD Sub Committees and Duties:**
- **Automatic Door Openers at both City Hall and Legion Building:**

Ralph DeCicco tabled both items.

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

Ralph DeCicco stated that there are two potential COD committee members and HR will follow up with next steps.

Item #8: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback-

N/A

Item #9: Next Steps Rick Freni stated once again the Art Inclusive program starts on 10/15 at 6:30PM to 7:30PM for 6 weeks. Also stated the SEPAC Halloween party is 10/29 at 5pm at the Rec. Ralph Decicco asked for candy donations again from our local elected officials.

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.

Motion to Adjourn:

Rick Freni made the motion and was seconded by Robert Bent to adjourn.

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday November 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM.