



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – October 10, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267

Meeting Will Broadcast Live Via Zoom, Revere TV & Revere TV YouTube Channel

Please click the link below to join the webinar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/879 9134 6824](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87991346824)

Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 879 9134 6824

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Jason Barone, Mario Grimanis, Ellie Vargas, Robert Brown, **Absent:** Asmaa Al Fouda, Sofia Marmouda (Student Liaison)

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from September 12, Made by Mario Grimanis & Seconded by Ellie Vargas

Item #2:

- **October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. The MA Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities will be hosting a series of Events this month which started on October 4th. They will be discussing key topic areas related to employment, benefits and the workforce shortage impact. You can find out more information by going to there website which is: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/permanent-commission-on-the-status-of-persons-with-disabilities>**
- **October is also the 50th Anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.**
- **Massachusetts Commission for the Blind will be celebrating their annual event for the first time in 4 years on Friday October 13th from 11 AM - 1 PM in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston. For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/whitecane>**

Item #3: Guest Speaker- No Guest Speaker this month due to meeting time change

Item #4: Updates/Next Steps from September Meeting

- **Update on City promoting October being National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month.**
- **Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers. -She is working on scheduling speakers**

Item #5: SEPAC October/November Events

Information was not available at the time of posting from Robert Brown. –

- **At meeting Robert mentioned there were no SEPAC updates or Events except they are still waiting to see about having an election t fill vacancies**

Item #6: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday October 4th 2023.

An announcement was made regarding a few bills:

- **Architectural Access Bills: [H2291](#): An Act expanding the availability of adaptable housing for people with disabilities and seniors Along with Bill [S1553](#): An Act building a more accessible Massachusetts.**
- **Housing Bill: [H.1351/S.888](#), An act relative to the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, Bill [S. 864](#), An Act promoting access to counsel and housing stability in Massachusetts; and Bill [S.881/H.1307](#), An Act Creating the Massachusetts Healthy Homes Program**
- **A few COD members from various cities and towns opened up a discussion regarding transportation for disabled residents to the polls on election days. It was mentioned that various political organizations and/or candidates centered on voting should organize this, but not cities. Under the ADA this is not considered a reasonable accommodation for someone with a disability. There are many other residents that have similar needs. This applies to transportation at large in cities and towns and not just for voting on election days.**
- **Lastly there was a discussion regarding Language terms, more specifically speaking to folks about the language of persons with disabilities – What is the community most comfortable with? Example; use of the term “Handicapped” There will be further discussions on this topic at a future Monthly CODA meeting.**

Item #7: As Chair of the Revere Commission on Disabilities & ADA Coordinator, I am in the beginning stages of applying for a grant in conjunction with the Revere Department of Public Health through the MA Department of Public Health. This grant is to improve community accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The area that I am focusing on for this grant would be the pool and amenities associated within it at the Community Center in the Garfield School.

Item #8: Commission Members Late Items/Information

- **Ellie Vargus is part of a grassroots organization called Mass adapt and they are always looking for volunteers. Their website is www.adaptofmass.org/**
- **HP plates and Placards are done solely through the RMV and not Cities and towns. Jason also mentioned that maybe we should make sure this is clearly pointed out on the city of Revere’s web page**

Item #9: Residents’ concerns/issues - None

Item #10: Next Steps: - None

Item #11: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities office number is 781-286-8267. Residents can also call Revere 311 directly and speak to their staff Monday through Friday. They will be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like to speak to our department directly, please ask to be transferred to the Disability office. If we are unavailable, please leave a detailed message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

As always 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 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: Made By Jason Barrone & Seconded by Ellie Vargas

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM