



## **CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**Meeting Notes – December 12, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**

**Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair**

**Email: [disabilities@revere.org](mailto: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/88270277148>**

**Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099**

**Webinar ID 882 7027 7148**

**(Revere TV YouTube Recoded 12-12-23 Meeting link)**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6XkUUbyc54&ab\\_channel=RevereTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6XkUUbyc54&ab_channel=RevereTV)**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2023 - Made by Jason Barone & Seconded by Pauline Perno**

**Item #2: Updates/Next Steps from November 14, 2023 Meeting**

- **Updates from Vice Chair Perno regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers. She is awaiting a callback from Paul Ward who is the director of Adaptive Sports.**
- **Vice Chair Perno also asked other Commission members for input for monthly guests especially if they belong to any disability advocacy agencies.**

**Item #3: Guest Speaker: Due to it Being the Holiday Season there was no Guest Speaker this month.**

**Item #4: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- **Discussion from COD Members from Various cities and towns regarding MAAB Variances. This included questions around how their communities and COD's handle requests, public hearings and decisions they receive along with the 30-day appeal process.**
- **Discussions and questions from meeting members regarding timeline for notification for awarding MOD grant applicants. Also, there were questions about the MA DPH CHII Mini Grants.**
- **Discussions around communities that have or are in the process of making parks and playgrounds more universally accessible.**
  - **Commission member Barrone also made a motion and second by member Brown, which was approved by all members to have any and all AAB (Architectural Access Board) variances that are sent to Commission on Disabilities Chair/ADA Coordinator presented at monthly meetings after it was discussed and asked for by Chair DeCicco**

**Item #5: SEPAC December/January Events**

**Robert Brown mentioned that there were none. It was also mentioned that SEPAC has not met since September 2023 and there are no meetings scheduled.**

**Item #6: Winter Programs Offered for People with Disabilities:**

- **The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) runs a [Universal Access Program](#) or <https://www.mass.gov/topics/winter-recreation> that provides opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in adaptive winter sports and recreation. Events begin this week! You are invited at Specific locations [to take a spin at the indoor ice rink with your wheelchair](#) or visit the East Boston Porraazo Rink website directly <https://www.mass.gov/locations/porraazo-memorial-rink>. You can find more opportunities to participate in outdoor winter adaptive sports, as well as volunteer opportunities, with DCR's Universal Access Program at <https://www.mass.gov/topics/accessible-recreation> or follow this hyperlink [Accessible winter activates schedule for state parks posted by Department of Conservation & Recreation Universal Access Program](#)**
- **Spaulding Rehab Hospital's Adaptive Sports Centers (SASC) offers recreational opportunities you may be interested in trying this winter as well. Activities include indoor sports such as pickleball or wheelchair basketball that can be played on an indoor court, as well as ice rink sports such as sled hockey. For more information, visit the [SASC online calendar](#) or <https://sasc.spauldingrehab.org/default.aspx> or call 877-976-7272.**

**Item #7: Commission Members Late Items/Information:**

- **Chair DeCicco spoke about CHII Assessment Mini- Grant awarded from MA Department of Public Health (DPH). It will be used to assess the accessibility area in and around the pool area at the George V. Collella Community Center which is a part of the Garfield School.**
- **Commission Member Jason Barone spoke about the new regulations created by the State to have cities and towns create affordable housing near public transportation train stations.**
- **Vice Chair Perno spoke about a shoveling program that the city of Somerville has and is awaiting a call back to find out more information.**

**Item #8: Residents' concerns/issues**

**Item #9: Next Steps:**

- **Pauline Perno is working on guest speakers for monthly meetings and will update us on call backs that she is awaiting.**

**Item #10: 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 Barone & Seconded by Pauline Perno**

**Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday January 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM**