



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

**Meeting Notes – February 13, 2024 @ 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**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM3YKRIMBJY&list=PLIYqBh7a\\_8bz\\_jaLbb\\_Lgl-ee\\_7wqGYDE&index=69](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AM3YKRIMBJY&list=PLIYqBh7a_8bz_jaLbb_Lgl-ee_7wqGYDE&index=69)**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call of Members Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Jason Barone, Mario Grimanis, Ellie**

**Vargas Absent: Robert Brown,**

**Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2024 - Made by Jason Barone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis**

**Item #2: Guest Speaker: None**

**Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from January 9, 2024 Meeting**

- **Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers.**
  - **Pauline Reached out to Camp Arrowhead in Natick This camp has been around for over 50 years serving the needs of residents (kids & young adults) with disabilities and is waiting for a call back.**
  - **Pauline discussed the Snow shoveling program in Somerville. She has been in contact with them to talk more about it. This also came up at a recent City Council meet by Councilor Hass. Chair DeCicco will put Vice Chair in touch with Counselor Hass to have further discussions and see if we can be a part of meetings with the Mayor's office and other departments such as the Workforce Development, Labor relations & Youth Engagement & Success, Parks & Recreation, School Department and VolunteerRevere. We also do not want to infringe on any of the great work the JROTC does. We can also look at doing more with a program than just snow shoveling. We need to have our youth more involved with the community and especially with our Seniors.**
  - **Jason Barrone & Mario Grimanis were both reappointed to the Cod. Also, sadly Asmaa Abou-Fouda has stepped down and did not accept a reappointment. We wish her well and thank her for all she did to help on the Commission for the past few years. She will be greatly missed.**

**Item #4: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday February 7th.**

- **DPC mentioned that that Governors Budget proposed cuts in the line item for the much-needed current PCA program and they are advocating for changes to this. Funding needs to be increased and not cut.**

- **COD Commissions discussed accessibility at town meetings. Main way to achieve this is for all municipal meetings to establish and have a Hybrid/Remote component.**
- **COD Commission Members from various cities and towns had questions regarding interactions and overlaps with special education issues and the local SEPAC (special education parent advisory councils) in their communities if any.**
- **A great discussion was had on the interpretation of [MGL chapter 40 section 8J](#) This is regarding the establishment and makeup of members on a Disability Commission.**

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

- **SEPAC is in a transition to new Board members and at the time of posting no information has been provided. If any information is received by the time of COD meeting it will be shared.**
  - **Julie Brown is the new SEPAC president and she informed us they will be having a February meeting at 6PM on 2/29/24. The meeting will be taking place in the Revere School Committee Room which is located at Revere High School. It will be an open forum to discuss resources and what is available in our community to support children and their families.**

**Item #6: Vice Chair Pauline Perno Discussion on “Silent Disabilities” and the impact everyday ignorance has. (This was tabled from January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting due to time limitations)**

- **Watch meeting on Revere YouTube link to see discussion)**

**Item #7: We applied for and were awarded a MA Department of Health Mini Grant The Revere Commission on Disabilities in conjunction with the Revere Department of Public Health have created a survey for Revere Residents. We are specifically reaching out to seniors, people/families with disabilities, people with racial and financial injustices to complete the survey about accessibility at and to the George V Colella Community Center.**

**The Community Center is located within the Garfield School (176 Garfield Ave) and is operated by the Revere Parks & Recreation Department. The facility features a swimming pool and many more programs and activities. If you are a Revere resident, we need your help by filling out this survey in your preferred language to understand your needs. Your feedback will matter to us." Thank you .**

**Please Click on 1 of the Survey Links:**

**English Survey Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRGH3MJ>

**Spanish Survey Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3YC356>

**Portuguese Survey Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QTTT5XB>

**Arabic Survey Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QBL2WHD>

**Item #8: Commission Members Late Items/Information:**

- **Meg Bandera from Unpaved Trails For All that gave us a presentation at our August COD meeting sent an update regarding the accessible Trail Bill, S.446/H.769 *An Act Expanding Access To Trails For People Of All Abilities* just received a favorable report from the Joint Committee On Environment And Natural Resources.**

**The bill will now likely go to the Senate Ways and Means Committee for evaluation. We will need to continue our advocacy in order to get a favorable report from Ways and Means. A favorable report would send the bill to the floor for a vote.**

**She asked us to keep advocating and spread the word in support of bill S.446/H.769. She also asked that city and towns ask their cities to sign and pass a resolution in support of this bill to send to the legislature. (We created a resolution and tried to send this to the city council but unfortunately, we were told the city council would not be able to since we do not have trails. This bill is for accessibility for Trails anywhere and everywhere in the commonwealth and here in Revere we do have residents that enjoy the outdoors and rely on mobility equipment that this could benefit them to access more amenities and provide equality). The COD members asked that we try again to see if the City Council can sign a resolution.**

- **Discussion regarding scooters/bikes. Neither are allowed to be operated on sidewalks. Sidewalks are for pedestrian to walk and the only other allowable use on sidewalks are mobility scooters (Which are different from leisure scooters) or electric wheelchairs. Further enforcement is needed. The COD had a presentation a few months back from the Boston COD regarding a Public information Campaign called Boston Brakes in which we could use as a template to create our own campaign. At that time, we had reached out to the Mayor's office with this information.**

**Item #9: Residents' concerns/issues None**

**Item #10: Next Steps**

- **Updates on Guest speakers**
- **Any update on Communication with Councilor Haas regarding Somerville Snow Program**

**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 answer most questions,**

**but if they are unable to or if you want to speak to our department directly or schedule an appointment, 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 tell us if you want something discussed or 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 Mario Grimanis**

**Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM**