



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

**Meeting Agenda – March 14th, 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 Be Via Zoom and on Revere TV**

**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, Mario Grimanis, Asmaa Al Fouda**

**Absent- Jason Barrone, Robert Brown, Ellie Vargas Sofia Marmouda (Student Liaison)**

**Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2023 Approved by Mario Grimanis Second by Asmaa Al-Fouda**

### **Item #2: Updates/Next Steps from March Meeting**

- **Any Updates from Pauline regarding Calendar for monthly future guest speakers- Michael Hinojosa will be June's guest speaker.**
- **Any Follow up/ Update information regarding Therapy Dog agencies from Pauline or Robert. None**

### **Item #3: Claudia Correa Chief of Talent and Culture For the City of Revere Guest Speaker**

- **Mentioned that the department was started 2 years ago. They deal with policy changes, diversity and equity across the city. This is for both the community and internally.**
- **The department works with all commissions. She also mentioned that March is National Disabilities Month.**
- **Focus on diversity without regard to race, skin or religion.**
- **Mentioned the question of how the city is making its best efforts to be inclusive. Will be looking at accessibility and efforts with compliance(ADA) Example- Elevators in place and do people know this and where they are located? Will be revisiting the 2019 Transition Plan completed in 2019 by EMG that the Commission on Disabilities had done for municipal buildings in the city. She also mentioned that both her and Ralph will be going through plan together and also visiting the buildings.**
- **City Department heads are adding ADA language looking at inclusivity, diversity and equity.**
- **Questions and discussions that came up regarding Zoom and Virtual meetings. The State voted to expand the hybrid model to March of 2025. Mario commented that this would be a big help to have meetings hybrid. Claudia also responded that she is in full support that the City of Revere expand, maintain and have all Virtual, Hybrid City public meetings.**

#### **Item #4: SEPAC March/April Events**

**Information was not available at the time of the posting from Robert Brown so he will update us during the meeting. None, Robert Brown was not in attendance for meeting.**

#### **Item #5: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom meeting March 1, 2023 Two announcements were made.**

- 1. The Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council is having its IL Education Day at the State House and remotely on March 23. You can find out more information by visiting there web site which is <https://masilc.org/independent-living-education-day-2023/> or Call the Independent Living Council at 508-620-7452/**
- 2. Up on the Hill, committees have been assigned which means bills and budget will start getting moving soon. Disability Policy Consortium's (DCP) main focuses this session are housing affordability and accessibility, parental rights in DCF cases, Wheelchair repair, Healthcare nondiscrimination, and Communication access at the state house. We have put together a [survey for Deaf, Deaf Blind, Deaf Disabled, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened people in Massachusetts](#) . If you want to contribute to any of that advocacy, please contact R Freyman at DCP directly. Their website is <https://www.dpcma.org/> (DCP and R Freyman is from the agency that facilities our monthly CODA calls.)**

**Also, during the meeting, there were two discussions:**

- Discussion regarding filling seats and term length for Disability Commissions in various cities and towns**
  - Most places count the beginning of the term from the person's swearing-in date, but it seems like some cities back-date it to a particular date such as Jan 1 or July 31.**
- Discussion regarding Accommodations at large events for people who are blind or low vision.**
  - The general consensus was that it's important to put information on how to request accommodations and alternative formats on all event announcements, in the minutes, etc.**
  - It is the ADA coordinator's job to ensure those notifications are posted, and to respond to them (not the Commission's)**
  - That said, if it's something big like an annual town meeting, it's not a bad idea to have some large-print copies of handouts on-hand**

#### **Item #6: Commission Members Late Items**

- Asmaa asked that if anyone would like ASL interpretation added to meeting to please reach out to her by email or phone**
- As a reminder Cities and towns do not issue or renew HP placard. That is only done through the RMV.**

#### **Item #7: Residents' concerns/issues**

- **Commission members received some resident concerns that HP parking spots in some store parking lots have been removed to accommodate Tesla charging stations. We will look into this but also encourage calls to 311 . HP spots are a priority.**
  
- **Also received a call from a resident regarding concern that a local gym did not have adequate working locking mechanism in woman's HP bathroom stall.**
- **It was noted during the meeting that no contractor can block HP parking spots during construction with equipment or on sidewalks.**

**Item #8: Next Steps:**

- **Confirm Calendar with monthly guest speakers.**
- **Have Robert Brown Email Asmaa with any and all SEPAC Events.**
- **Continue discussion on draft letter on changing fines for HP parking violations to increase the dollar amount so that they are in line with other cities and towns. The increase would also help deter people from parking or staying idle in these spots illegally.**

**Item #9: Reminder –**

**The Commission on Disabilities Office works remotely. Residents can speak to staff from our 311 Constituent Service Center Monday through Friday 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 department, please ask to be transferred to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon 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:**

**Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM**