



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Agenda Notes – April 12, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: 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: UPS: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 879 9134 6824

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members: Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Mario Grimanis, Jason Barrone, Robert Brown, Asmaa Aabou-Fouda – Quorum Present

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2022: Made by Pauline Perno, Second by Mario Grimanis

Item #2: Updates/Next Steps from March Meeting

- **Therapy dogs / animals...need further research on use, settings, positivity rates....would need to bring potential trainers and dogs to schools to meet with administrators and school personnel. VAMC and local hospitals and extended care facilities may be good places to contact to make connections. Will continue to research this!!! To proceed there would need to be a written protocol with review by appropriate agencies.**
- **Asmaa continues to work on securing ASL translators for meetings.**
- **The Revere Senior Center will host a dinner celebration for the Ramadan Holiday, on Friday April 29, 2022...all are invited.**

Item #3: SEPAC March Updates/April Events:

- **Front lawn of City Hall created a great backdrop for Autism Awareness month, with a focus on acceptance and inclusion...looking at changing the wording from awareness to acceptance. Robert Brown is our SEPAC liaison who will update the Commission monthly.**

Item #4: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) – Monthly Zoom meeting April 6, 2022. Discussions regarding accessible voting and accessible mail in voting. There will be continued research and discussion on accessibility for voting, stemming from the machines themselves and issues of confidentiality stemming from individuals assisting persons who are alternately abled (visual, writing etc). MA State Election

Secretary William Galvin is working to make all voting accessible. Mario and Jason to spearhead discussions on how to improve the current system... may need further meetings with the Election Department in Revere. Possible letter to MA State Election Secretary as well, identifying needs.

Item #5: Discussion regarding progression of medical conditions and disabilities causing people to need the workforce along with where to turn for help. This will be a continued discussion next month, looking at the reasons people are forced to leave their jobs, and where they can find help and guidance. This discussion will include any disability whether visible or “invisible “ is there a way to increase awareness of all disabilities, and the difficulties that people encounter on a daily basis....ie disability for a day assigning an able bodied individual a disability, and have them spend the day working through issues. Pauline will investigate as this was a course project in undergraduate school...will update at next meeting.

Item #6: Commission on Disability looking to fill a Vacancy : applications can be found on city’s website under Board Openings and Human Resources

Item #7: Communications: none at present

Item #8: Commission Members Late Items : MMA (Mass Municipal Assn) looking for permanent options to hold meetings remote, or at least hybrid.....Open meeting laws will need to be addressed and changed

Item #9: Residents’ concerns/issues - (None)

Item #10: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities is trying to limit in person appointments while we set up a new permanent location. 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.

Next Steps: The Commission will be hosting a guest speaker at its next meeting. Many discussion items have been tabled for further review to June Meeting

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Jason Barrone / Second by Mario Grimanis

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday May 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM