



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – May 9, 2023 @ 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: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 879 9134 6824

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2023 Made By Mario Grimanis & Seconded by Asmaa Al Fouda

Item #2: Guest Speaker- Charlie Giuffrida Director Office of Travel & Tourism for Revere.

- **The Department has Direct marketing and has established many relationships and partnerships. Hospitality is the next double-digit growth. At present Revere has 1600 hotel rooms and there are at least an additional 200 rooms coming. With this being said there has been communication through this department with the City Boston Regarding the World cup that will be coming and how we can help with accommodations because of our proximity.**
- **The Department has many events that they promote and help subsidize. All the information about events and programs he mentioned can be found at www.nextstoprevere.com and www.revererec.org (A lot of the upcoming events were discussed in detail during the meeting and can be seen on the recording by going to Revere Tv's YouTube channel.
The direct link for the meeting is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLDQ2CqbmLw>**
- **Discussed that The City of Revere through the Travel & Tourism Department is heading towards a partnership with DCR with some autonomy regarding Revere Beach. Looking to have PODS in which vendors could sell beach items.**
- **Ralph brought up the idea that it would be great if we could look into bringing adaptive bikes/trikes to Revere Beach and suggested ideas on how this could work. We would need to bring members from DCR, Revere Travel & Tourism, Bike Share Company, Save the Beach Harbor/Save the Bay, along with possible Hotel partners. (Also Mentioned Beach Wheelchair Buggies That DCR should be providing along with accessible sand mats)**
- **A Partnership should be formalized soon through the Revere Travel & Tourism Department and LL Bean to have a POD that will have free beach equipment that beach attendees can access and rent for free while they are visiting and using the beach.**

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from April 11th Meeting

- **Any Updates from Pauline regarding Calendar for future monthly guest speakers- Michael Hinojosa the Director of Revere Parks & Recreation Department will be joining us at the June meeting.**
- **Any Follow up/ Update information regarding Therapy Dog agencies from Pauline or Robert. They have both reached out to several agencies/companies and are still waiting to hear back.**
- **Revisit HP Violation Fines increase Draft letter. Tabled Until August**

Item #4: SEPAC May/June Events

Robert Brown mentioned that the SEPAC Board election will be taking place in June

Item #5: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom meeting May 3, 2023

- **Member from Acton Commission spoke about adaptive bikes for disabled residents. This also led to discussions regarding ways communities can bring adaptive bike programs to their cities and towns. I suggested ideas on how the City of Revere can partner with DCR and a bike share program already in the community along with storage alternatives. An issue for people with mobility issues that use wheelchairs and scooters and want to use an adaptive bike or trikes is how to transfer and store their equipment safely and suggestions were mentioned.**
- **Discussions on Hybrid/Remote public municipal meetings. This topic brought up challenges and suggestions from COD members on how to make these better for people with disabilities to be part of the community along with members of various boards, commissions or councils. We have technology and should be using it to adapt to society and the needs of everyone.**

Item #6: Commission Members Late Items –

- **Commission Member Ellie Vergas is presently in Washington Dc and joining us during this meeting from there. She is there with the Massachusetts Adapt Chapter on behalf of advocating for National Disability Rights. She is part of a protest in front of Speaker Kevin McCarthy's Office because they refuse to set up a meeting to have discussions regarding these issues and concerns.**

Item #7: Residents' concerns/issues – Residents still looking on how to apply or renew HP Placards. Residents have been bringing completed HP Placard/Plate applications and are to Parking Department or mailing them to the Disability Department. Hp Placards/Plates and Applications along with renewals are handled only by the RMV not any city or town in Massachusetts. It states on the application the exact address to which it is supposed to be mailed back. Also, in regard to anyone that has a HP Placard that is about to expire the RMV usually will mail out a new HP placard a few weeks beforehand as long as it is not a temporary one.

Item #8: Next Steps:

- **Ideas regarding questions for June's guest Speaker regarding programs at Revere Parks and Recreation Department especially for children and teens with special needs/disabilities. Also staffing for person or persons specializing for children to young adults with special needs/disabilities**

Item #9: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities number is 781-286-8267. Residents can speak to staff from our 311 Constituent Service Center Monday through Friday when you call our office number. 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 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 Pauline Perno and seconded by Mario Grimanis
Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM**