



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – September 12, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: 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/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, Jason Barone, Mario Grimanis, Ellie Vargas
Absent: Asmaa Al Fouda, Robert Brown, Sofia Marmouda (Student Liaison)

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from August September 12, 2023

Made by Jason Barone & Seconded Pauline Perno

Item #2: Guest Speaker- Coleen Flanagan, Engagement and Outreach Specialist from the City of Boston Mayors Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be joining us to speak about a great campaign and initiative called Boston Brakes. For more information about Boston Brakes, you can visit the website directly at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/disabilities-commission/boston-brakes>

- Also, to see our Commission on Disabilities Meeting recording from 9-12-23 on Revere Tv's YouTube page visit : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvIHmDcG8Cw>

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from August Meeting

- **Follow up on motions made and approved at August COD meeting to send letters regarding Bills S.446 & H.7690(Both Bills are identical) to Support “An Act Expanding Access To Trails For People of All Abilities”**
 - Letter sent on behalf Revere Commission on Disabilities to “Unpaved Trails for All” showing our support of (Bills S.446 & H.7690) to include in their package that they will submit to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources at the State House. Also sent our own independent letters on behalf of the Revere Commission on Disabilities to the Chair and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. *(Can supply those names and letters if requested)*
 - Letter sent on behalf of Revere Commission on Disabilities to Revere's State Delegation. Letters were sent to Representative Jeffrey Turco, Representative Jessica Giannino and Senator Lydia Edwards to ask for support of (Bills S.446 & H.7690)*(Can supply those names and letters if requested)*
 - Letter sent on behalf of the Revere Commission on Disabilities to the Revere City Council President Pro Tempore via The City Clerk's Office to support, sign and send A RESOLUTION In Support of An Act Expanding Access To Trails For People of All Abilities (Bills S.446 & H.7690) To the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources at the State House on behalf of the City of Revere and its residents especially the disabled. *(Can supply letter if requested)*
- **Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers - Working on November and December**
- **Follow up/ Update information regarding Therapy Dog agencies from Pauline or Robert.** Pauline is looking to talk to the School Department regarding School Therapy Dog.

Item #4: SEPAC September/November Events

Information was not available at the time of posting from Robert Brown – None, Robert was not in attendance and did not send communication.

Item #5: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday September 6th 2023

- **Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) Legislative Hearing Updates**
 - Thursday 9/7/23 is the first in a series of hearings on upcoming legislation to Allowing judges to leverage institutional confinement – DPC Strongly opposes this!
 - Still accepting written testimony
 - Fighting Healthcare Discrimination hearing on September 20
 - This predates Covid-19 but came about largely because of it
 - If you had to sign a DNR or were mistreated, DPC Would love you to provide testimony. You can contact them directly at dpcma.org or 617-307-7775
- **Somerville Associate Commissioner had questions regarding legal status, duties, and powers of COD's**
 - Seems like right now we are more on an advisory role
 - No authority to offer licenses, permits, etc.
 - The city of Somerville is offering accessibility training to firefighters, but they did not consult us for input.
 - Rachel Tannenhaus from Cambridge COD mentioned that when they interview people to become a board member for their COD board, they make it clear that they are an advisory board without legal authority. She also said we have folks here for a reason – nothing about us without us.
 - This was reiterated by members of Commissions from other cities and towns.
- **There were discussions and questions regarding Parks and Recreation**
 - The COD Member from Arlington spoke about Minuteman Bike Path goes through their town, but she can't get her trike to the path without going through traffic
 - Recent move for Arlington ADA Coordinator to get a bike/trike shelter installed
 - Similar measure has been done in other cities – Bedford, South Acton
 - New rental trikes popping up in different places that have a lot of great initiatives
 - Some private companies making these available
 - Confusion whether available resources are either bikes or trikes
 - Brings up another issue of storage – related to storage of wheelchairs for people who use beach wheelchairs
- **Lastly COD Members discussed Issues with lack of accessibility in design of new parks – wood chips on path, Play areas etc.**
 - The ADA regulations say it is acceptable, but the Architectural Access Board (AAB) does not. The AAB should be the regulation that is followed and abided by because whatever agency has a stronger regulation/determination for accessibility should take precedence in any situation

Item #6: Commission Members Late Items/Information

- **October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**
 - Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities will be hosting their Inaugural National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month Celebration on Thursday October 5th at 11 Am in The General Hall of Flags located in the Massachusetts State House.

For some background this Commission is a 23-member Independent State Agency which was established in the 2020 law under Chapter 3 Section 74 of Mass General Laws as part of the Law Enforcement reform legislation to help advocate for all persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

On the federal level, The Agency is called Permanent Commission on The Status of Persons With Disabilities.

Item #7: Residents' concerns/issues - None

Item #8: Next Steps: - See about City Posting and Promoting October Being National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Item #9: 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 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 Jason Barone & Seconded Ellie Vargas

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday October 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM