



# Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL SQUARE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201  
 617.635.3682 | fax 617.635.2726 | TTY 617.635.2541 | [www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions](http://www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions)

Minutes for Wednesday August 22nd, 2018  
 Ianella Chamber, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH  
 Commissioner

## Commission Members

- Zary Amirhosseini
- Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia
- Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong
- Jerry Boyd
- Paul Caron
- Elizabeth Dean-Clower
- Wesley Ireland
- Dusya Lyubovskaya
- Olivia Richard
- Carl Richardson
- Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (JC) Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia (JB) Jerry Boyd (ED) Elizabeth Dean-Clower (WI) Wesley Ireland (DL) Dusya Lyubovskaya (OR) Olivia Richard (CR) Carl Richardson (YS) Yardley Sanchez  Not Present: (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong (PC) Paul Caron (JW) John Winske (KR) Kyle Robidoux	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (PM) Patricia Mendez (JD) Jessica Doonan (SL) Sarah Leung (WP) Winston Pierre
Guests: Ricki Meyer, Director of Policy and Legal Operations, Exceptional Lives	

**Meeting Minutes:** Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jerry Boyd and seconded by a Board member and unanimously approved by all present

**Exceptional Lives Presentation, Ricki Meyer:** Ricki Meyer (RM) introduced herself to the Board and spoke about the work Exceptional Lives does. Exceptional Lives provides families with information about how to access services and resources related to their children with disabilities. Their information is provided in easy to understand ways such as “how-to” guides which empowers families to get the best services for their child. The organization also provides a curated resource directory on their website and a helpline which is available via phone, email, text or webchat.

### **Chair’s Report: Carl Richardson**

Carl Richardson (CR) informed the Board that the Commissioner for the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind will be David D’Arcangelo as of August 27<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner D’Arcangelo was previously the Director of Massachusetts Office on Disability. Commissioner Heidi Reed from Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be stepping down January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and the State will be commencing a search for a new Commissioner. CR noted that if anyone has any recommendations for who should be the new Commissioner that they should contact the Secretary’s Office for Health and Human Services.

### **Commissioner’s Report: Kristen McCosh**

KMC welcomed the new Board members and let them know that one more new member, Paul Caron, would be joining them in September. Paul works for the Boston Planning and Development Agency. Additionally, three other members are absent from this meeting but will hopefully attend in September so that everyone can meet. KMC recognized that this meeting is the first one to happen in the City Council Chamber and discussed the accessibility upgrades that have happened over the last year in the chamber. KMC then provided an overview of the Commission, the work the office does and the format of the Advisory Board meetings. She also informed the Board that while they

can say that they are members of the Advisory Board, they are not allowed to speak on behalf of the Board without prior approval of KMC. Additionally, all Board members must review the by-laws, take the State ethics and conflict of interest test. The Advisory Board meetings are broadcast live on City TV with captions and archived digitally. Board elections will happen in a few months so members should think about if they want to take on a leadership position on the Board.

#### **Architectural Access Update: Patricia Mendez**

Patricia Mendez (PM) spoke to the Board about the Ruggles St reconstruction and informed them of a public meeting August 23rd 6pm at the Dewitt Community Center. The Commission also hosted students from the Boston Architectural College Design for Human Health class. Staff gave the students an overview of the work they do and answered any questions they had. PM mentioned the Boston Arts Academy reconstruction and the work being done with the Elderly Commission to add aging in place language to the Article 80 process. The Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab is working with the Commission on a policy related to compact living which will ensure that accessibility is not compromised by smaller housing footprints. The Commission will work to have presentations to the Board on compact living and on the Ruggles St reconstruction in the coming months.

#### **Old Business**

Jessica Doonan (JD) noted that the letter regarding adaptive sports and Boston Center for Youth and Family will be ready for the September meeting with the help of Jerry Boyd. ZA suggested reaching out to health centers and gyms as well regarding adaptive sports which JD will follow up with her about.

#### **New Business**

Olivia Richard (OR) inquired as to whether there was any work being done on dockless mobility vehicles. KMC reported that the office is monitoring the situation, currently dockless bikes are not allowed in the City of Boston. Boston Bikes are also currently working with the Transportation Department on improving the rules and regulations regarding two wheeled vehicles. ED brought up paratransit for wheelchair users and mentioned the scarcity of vehicles to which KMC confirmed the Commission is aware of the issues and continues to work to find ways to improve the situation. CR asked the Commission to have presentations scheduled on dockless bikes and on wheelchair accessible vehicles which KMC agreed to. JC also requested that a presentation on winter weather prep and WI requested looking into accessibility for people with disabilities regarding different phone apps. KMC agreed to the snow presentation and will also reach out to the City of Boston Department of Innovation and Technology regarding apps.

#### **Action Item**

No new action items at this time.

#### **Public Input**

No public input

#### **Adjournment**

JB made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and approved.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 19th, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm**