



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

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Minutes for Monday July 23, 2018
 9th Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
 Commissioner

Commission Members

Zary Amirhosseini

Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong

Eugene Gloss

Dusya Lyubovskaya

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

John Winske

Present:	Staff Present:
(ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (JB) Jerry Boyd (DL) Dusya Lyubovskaya (CR) Carl Richardson Not Present: (JW) John Winske (KR) Kyle Robidoux (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (PM) Patricia Mendez (JD) Jessica Doonan (SL) Sarah Leung
Guests: Liz Miller, Office of Food Access; Liz Belfield, Parent Professional Advocacy League; Kathryn Quigley & Laura Brelsford, System-Wide Accessibility, MBTA	

June Meeting Minutes: Approval of the minutes was proposed by Carl Richardson and seconded by Dusya Lyubovskaya and unanimously approved by all present

Street Caster Presentation, Joe Cristo: Joe Cristo (JC) wished to update on the main purpose of Street Caster. Street Caster is a program that collaborates with the Public Works Department and the City of Boston to put equity in public infrastructures. Their current concern is around sidewalks; sidewalks in low-income neighborhoods are more likely to have sidewalks in worsening conditions than in middle or high-income neighborhoods. JC's colleague follows by naming the different partners that their team is working with such as Supernormal, Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI) and Harvard University City Form Lab. JC's colleague asks for support from the group to go on the Street Caster website and give feedback on how to make the website more accessible for anyone to use.

Office of Housing Stability, Domanique Williams; Domanique Williams (DW) and her program assist families in need of emergency housing and find long-term housing afterward. Her program saw a 47% increase in families with some form of housing. Her program has an evening clinic that runs twice a month, every second Thursday from 5 pm to 6 pm that helps families discover available resources for them. Furthermore, her program works with nine other non-profit organizations that help with issues such as eviction and access city flex funds. DW encourages for the board to view their website because her program is in the process of making the website more accessible for anyone to view.

Federation of Children with Special Needs, Olga Lopez; Olga Lopez came to expand more about the federation and what they do for the community. The Federation for Children with Special Needs provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners, and their communities. The Federation promotes the active and informed participation of parents of children with disabilities in shaping, implementing, and evaluating the public policy that affects them. Their big concern is families outside of Greater Boston to support families because they are located near Bunker Hill; they're accessible through the orange line and have free parking at their site.

Chair's Report: Carl Richardson

The State budget came back and the Mass commission received a 2.4 million dollar increase in budget. Housing vouchers have been funded and it's up to the mayor to pass the budget and pass to the legislature to review for any vetos. CR reminded everyone that he, John Winske Commissioner Heidi Reed will be speaking on a panel, on the Anniversary of the ADA on Thursday, July 26th at the Disability Rights Fund Office at 89 South Street at 9 am.

Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC announces that further meetings will be held in the City Council Chamber in August, to ensure all 13 members will be sworn in and attend meetings regularly. Furthermore, the meetings will be moved to every third Wednesday.

Architectural Access Update: Patricia Mendez

The committee continues to serve at the Agricultural Access Board and the board talks about the upcoming bills that are going through the Massachusetts Legislature.

Old Business

No old business at this time.

New Business

No new business at this time.

Action Item

No new action items at this time.

Public Input

David Viera (DV) speaks on behalf of the Boston Public Library and reminds the committee promised an access ramp. DB states that he'll be back for the September meeting to ensure that an official vote will be held for the ramp that was promised to be built in the earlier summer.

Adjournment

JB and JW made a motion to adjourn the meeting and KMC seconded.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 22nd, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm