



Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL PLACE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201
617.635.3682 | fax 617.635.2726 | TTY 617.635.2541 | www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions

Minutes for Thursday February 25th, 2016
9th Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chairperson

Allegra Stout
Vice Chairperson

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(AS) Allegra Stout (KR) Kyle Robidoux (KC) Kimyatta Campbell (HW) Heather Watkins (CR) Carl Richardson Not Present: (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (MM) Marc (Moses) Mallard (JW) John Winske	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (JD) Jessica Doonan
Guests: Atyia Martin, Chief Resiliency Officer	

January Meeting Minutes:

Kyle Robidoux (KR) made a motion to approve the January minutes which were seconded by Carl Richardson (CR) and unanimously approved by all present.

Chief Resiliency Officer Report: Atyia Martin

Chief Resiliency Officer Atyia Martin gave her bio and presented to the Board regarding her work looking at the City of Boston's resiliency currently, in the future, and in disaster situations. As part of the 100 Reliant Cities program Boston will be focusing on Racial Equity and Social Cohesion in five key areas: racial equity, household economic resilience, psychological resilience (trauma and overall mental health), community and civic engagements, critical infrastructure (includes climate change effects). The preliminary resilience assessment will be release soon and then working groups will be formed in each of the key areas. Recruitment of individuals for the working groups is happening currently.

Chair Report: Heather Watkins

Heather Watkins (HW) mentioned that with the elections coming up over the next nine months it is important to stay informed of politicians' positions on disability issues. A nonpartisan article from RespectAbility will be circulated highlighting where each presidential candidate stands. HW emphasized being aware of the accessibility at polling stations during the primary election. She then acknowledged that it is Black History Month and highlighted some important individuals of color who had disabilities such as Harriet Tubman, Fannie Lou Hamer, Brad Lomax, and Nathaniel Askia

Commissioner Report: Kristen McCosh

Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) opened her report providing staff updates. Jessica Doonan will be promoted to Chief of Staff as of March 1st and her previous position will be posted soon. Sarah Leung was recently hired as the Architectural Access Project Coordinator and will assist the Architectural Access Specialist when hired. Currently the Architectural Access Specialist position is posted and KMC will start interviews in the coming weeks.

KMC then updated the Board in regards to a few events. First KMC announced that the adaptive skating event which was scheduled for February 24th was moved to March 9th due to weather. The event will still be held at the Frog Pond pending weather. The next Disability Reframed film screening will also be happening on April 5th at 6pm at the Cambridge Public Library in partnership with the Cambridge Disability Commission and the ReelAbilities Film Festival.

KMC then mentioned that the report from the Inspector General regarding placard abuse has been released and that she will be sending the report to the Board. One point of note in the report is the proposal of a two tiered system for free metered parking or time limits of meters. The recommendations from the Housing Task Force are being finalized soon and will include increasing the supply of housing, information and training, and services supporting people with disabilities in housing. KMC is still in the process of finalizing a date for a civic engagement day.

Allegra Stout gave an update on the Alternative Housing Voucher Program as well as Independent living Education Day at the state house on March 10th. Mass Coalitional Advocacy Day at the state house will also be March 3rd.

Jessica Doonan (JD) gave an update on the ReelAbilities Film Festival and the free ASL Tax Days that will be happening at Deaf inc and Urban Edge. The snow removal City Council hearing occurred this past month and has now been sent to a working group. Currently no one will be exempt from snow removal.

Architectural Access Report: Kristen McCosh

KMC is training Sarah Leung currently who will be working on access. Carl Richardson (CR) inquired about Beacon Hill which KMC will provide updates to at next month's Board meeting.

Old Business

JD checked with the Board regarding language in the MBTA Fiscal Control Board letter. The words "negatively impacted" will replace "suffered" and there will be consistency in capitalization regarding the RIDE. The Alternative Housing Voucher letter will be worked on with AS and Intergovernmental Relations.

Old Action Items

No Old Action Items.

New Business

CR mentioned that there will be a Senate Ways and Means hearing is Friday March 4th at 10am for those who are interested in attending. KMC announced that the Big Apple Circus will be back on Government Center soon and will have three accessible shows: Two Circus of the Senses shows and one autism-friendly show. The shows will have a cost to attend but they are significantly discounted from the regular shows.

AS mentioned that the annual Day of Mourning for those individuals with disabilities that have been killed by their caregivers will occur the March 6th in Cambridge and that she will send the info around to the Board. AS then inquired about different presentations at the Board Meetings, suggesting presentations related to special education or National Alliance on Mental Illness. JD replied that she will be going through the list of presenters the Board mentioned previously and will be reaching out to them for upcoming meetings.

KMC updated the Board on the Disability Commission Alliance call she was on this past month and that the focus of the call was on audible pedestrian signals and the Architectural Access Board regulations.

New Action Items

No New Action

Public Input

No public input

CR made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by AS and unanimously approved by all present. Meeting was adjourned.



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KRISTEN MCCOSH
Commissioner

DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Room 900, 9th Floor

Thursday February 25th, 2016

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Commission Members

Heather Watkins
Chair

Allegra Stout
Vice Chair

John Winske
Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard
Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Chief Resiliency Officer Report- *Atyia Martin*
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Architectural Access Update - *Kristen McCosh*
- Old Business
- Old Action Items
- New Business
- New Action Items
- Public Input
- Adjournment

Next meeting: March 24th, 5:30-7:30pm

MEETING ACCOMMODATION NOTICE

All meetings held by the City of Boston are required to be accessible for persons with disabilities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accommodations are available upon request to any person who requires alternately formatted materials, auxiliary aids, or another accommodation to ensure effective communication and access to attend meetings held by City departments and programs.

Please allow at least 2 weeks to arrange for accommodations. Requests for accommodations may be sent to the contact person for the meeting, or may be forwarded to: Kristen McCosh, City of Boston Disability Commissioner and ADA Coordinator, at kristen.mccosh@cityofboston.gov or 617-635-3682 (voice) or 617-635-2541 (TTY).

To participate in this meeting by phone please dial:

Conference Phone Number: 1-888-322-7166

Participant Code: 4074173#