



# 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 Monday June 25, 2018  
 9<sup>th</sup> Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH  
 Commissioner

## Commission Members

- Zary Amirhosseini
- Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong
- Jerry Boyd
- 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 (KR) Kyle Robidoux  On Phone: (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong  Not Present: (EG) Eugene Gloss (JW) John Winske	(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	

**April and May Meeting Minutes:** Approval of the minutes was proposed by Carl Richardson and seconded by Jerry Boyd and unanimously approved by all present

**City of Boston Department Presentation: Office of Food Access, Liz Miller:** Liz Miller (LM) explained her department's revised mission around improve equitable access to nutritious food with a respect to physical accessibility, affordability and cultural appropriateness. Her department is currently doing food insecurity assessments to hear from the public in regard to their process to get food. Top concerns were access to grocery stores and cost that affect people's ability to purchase food regularly; followed by disparities in neighborhoods and languages.

LM is working with the Boston Food Access Council (BFAC), a group of leaders from different nonprofits and city agencies to improve the food access issue. The BFAC's action areas are prioritizing three(3) different strategies: Economic development, Urban Agriculture and Strengthening Safety Nets. LM is also collaborating with Healthy Incentive Program (HIP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), BOSFoodLove and local farmer's markets to formulate different forms of access to different neighborhoods.

**Parent Professional Advocacy League: Program Manager, Liz Belfield:** Liz Belfield (LB) described her program, Parent Professional Advocacy League (PPAL), a statewide nonprofit that helps the public with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. The family-oriented program provide access to training and awareness to mental and emotional support for families. Their multicultural outreach team that provides support for families that may be unaware of PPAL and other services in other programs in Boston. PPAL provides support for people with visual or hearing impairments, language barriers and illness that branches emotionally, behaviorally and mentally.

**System-Wide Accessibility, MBTA: Deputy Director, Kathryn Quigley & Assistant General Manager, Laura Brelsford:** Laura Brelsford started the presentation about the inaccessibility statistics found from MBTA riders; noticing multiple issues regarding accessibility, creating barriers for riders on all forms of the MBTA. Next steps include major rebuild in platforms to make stations more accessible for the public. Initially, projects that are easy to complete such as removing barrier and nearby sidewalk are their first steps. Further on, projects that require meticulous design will be tackled and methods to obtain feedback will be taken into consideration.

**Chair's Report: Carl Richardson**

Carl Richardson (CR) noted that there is about a month for the public to contact their legislature about any concern regarding any disability related matter.

**Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

KMC reminded the Board of the ADA Day on July 24th on City Hall Plaza.

**Architectural Access Update: Patricia Mendez**

Patricia Mendez (PM) discussed the newly created accessibility checklist for events that happen throughout the different areas of City Hall Plaza. This checklist will assist in ensuring that accessibility needs will be met prior to the event occurring and was prompted by a series of events on the plaza in which accessibility was not met.

**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**

No public input at this time.

**Adjournment**

CR made a motion to adjourn the meeting and JB seconded.

**Next meeting: Monday, July 23<sup>st</sup>, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm**