



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

Minutes for Wednesday October 24, 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:
(JC) Juan Carlos Ramirez-Tapia (JB) Jerry Boyd (PC) Paul Caron (ED) Elizabeth Dean-Clower (WI) Wesley Ireland (DL) Dusya Lyubovskaya (OR) Olivia Richard (CR) Carl Richardson (KR) Kyle Robidoux (YS) Yardley Sanchez On Phone: (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (FB) Feleshia Battles-Byrdsong Not Present: (JW) John Winske	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (PM) Patricia Mendez (JD) Jessica Doonan (SL) Sarah Leung
Guests: Jacob Wessel – Tactical Public Realm Design Guidelines	

September Meeting Minutes: Approval of the minutes was proposed by Jerry Boyd and seconded by Zary Amirhosseini and unanimously approved by all present

Tactical Public Realm Design Guidelines, Jacob Wessel: Jacob Wessel presented on the newly issued guidelines for all tactical plaza, parklet, street mural, and outdoor cafe projects. These developed with input from involving BTD engineering, operations, and planning divisions, as well as engineering, Public Improvement Commission, and construction staff from Public Works. The Disabilities Commission provided accessibility input.

Chair’s Report: Carl Richardson

Carl Richardson (CR) noted to the Board that there is an election in two weeks and encouraged everyone to vote. All polling locations in the City of Boston are fully wheelchair accessible and have an automark machine.

Commissioner’s Report: Kristen McCosh

Commissioner McCosh (KMC) covered a few logistical things, stating that she is aiming to have a Board social event on December 12th either an hour prior to the meeting or after but will send an email out for everyone’s input. A workshop will be planned for the Board members in January to go over responsibilities as Board members. Nominations for Board positions will happen at the January meeting with elections to be held in February. Starting in January there will also be one City department presentation and one development/construction project presentation and the creation of subcommittees on different issues such as transportation or architecture. KMC also reiterated that the election is November 6th but that early voting is happening throughout the City till the end of October.

Councilor Flynn has called for a hearing related to disability services in the City and within that hearing there will be an opportunity for Board members and the community to testify regarding accessibility issues within the City. KMC testified at a City Council hearing regarding dockless bikes and electric scooters last week along with Board member Olivia Richard.

In regards to the ramp at the Copley Boston Public Library, KMC reported that as of the meeting, the ramp had been installed. The electric door opener will be installed by the end of the week and KMC specifically thanked David Viera for his continual advocacy on the issue.

Architectural Access Update: Sarah Leung

Sarah Leung provided the update from the Commission, noting t Teamed up with Age-Friendly/Elderly Commission to review the master plan for Suffolk Downs in East Boston/Revere. This project is approx. 10.5 million sq ft of development on almost 110 acres of land with 40 acre publicly accessible open space system and two retail nodes at Suffolk Downs and Beachmont Street MBTA stations. There will be a public meeting Tuesday, October 30 at Suffolk Downs Clubhouse in the Topsider Room on the Third Floor (525 McClellan Highway) and Spanish language interpretation will be available.

Architectural staff met with 20 Endicott College (Beverly MA) Interior Architecture students to learn about Universal Design principles as it relates to interior design. The staff will be working to do more of these presentations, making educating young professionals an initiative

There are several new planning studies that the BPDA that is conducting through this year and next. JP/Rox Transportation Community Charrette was held last night at the English High school and other studies will be looking for community input in the near future, including PLAN: Mattapan Open House Kick-off / Thursday October 25 at 6:30-8:00 at Mildred Avenue Community Center (5 Mildred Avenue) and PLAN: Glovers Corner Development Ideas and Future Visions Meeting / Thursday November 8 at 6:00-7:30 at Local 103 IBEW (256 Freeport Street, Dorchester). Additionally, the Board is invited to a Public Information Meeting on Thursday November 8 at MetroWest Transit Authority (15 Blandin Avenue, Framingham MA) regarding the AAB Bill.

Board Discussion: Dockless Bikes and Electric Scooters

Commissioner McCosh led a discussion with the Board regarding dockless bikes and electric scooters that are popping up throughout the City. The Board reported concerns regarding enforcement as to where they can be driven, where they can be docked, and who enforces violations. Additionally there are concerns regarding bikes and scooters sharing the path of travel with pedestrians and different adaptations were discussed to accommodate sharing the path with those who are Deaf or blind. Regarding legal standing, there were concerns expressed around the changes that would be required in the Massachusetts State Law to pilot this transportation option. Finally, the possibility of an Advisory Board/Group to work on guidelines and emphasizing the need for representation from the disability community was discussed.

Old Business

No old business at this time

New Business

Carl Richardson (CR) brought up a letter that is being signed and submitted by multiple disability commissions in the Commonwealth to the Governor asking that the new Director of the Massachusetts Office on Disability be a person with a disability. CR asked for input from the Board as to whether they wanted to submit a similar letter and the Board discussed what the qualifications of the new Director should be. Wesley Ireland advocated for a petition of some kind in addition to a letter. CR will reach out to the author of the letter for additional clarification and will follow up with the board via email. Jerry Boyd made a motion to further explore submitting the letter which was unanimously approved by all.

Action Items

Jerry Boyd (JB) noted that it appeared not all neighborhoods were represented by early voting which KMC will look into. Elizabeth Dean-Clower asked that the Commission provide a schedule as to who will be presenting throughout the year.

Public Input

Two seaport residents, Tanya and Nina, voiced their concerns regarding a situation in which an emotional support dog attacked multiple dogs, including Nina's dog and a service dog. The owner of the emotional support dog is appealing a decision made at a dangerous dog hearing and the residents asked for the Commissions support in

regards to the owner of the service dog. CR noted that Tanya and Nina came to his office at the State House earlier in the day and he invited them to come to the meeting. A few members of the Board will be attending the appeal hearing as Boston residents, not as Commission Advisory Board members.

Ethan Linsky informed the Board and the public of a fundraiser and Day of service being held by EPIC on Saturday November 3rd at Madison Park Technical High School. He invited everyone to volunteer if they are interested.

Adjournment

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 5:30 – 7:30 pm