

BOSTON DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2023

5:30-7:30p.m.

Please watch video from meeting [here](#)

AGENDA

Meeting Called to Order

- 5:30pm

Introductions

Attended:

1. Paul Caron
2. Dusya Lyubovskaya
3. Olivia Richard
4. Charlie Kim
5. Elizabeth Dean-Clower
6. Richard Glovsky
7. Zary Amirhosseini
8. Juan Carlos Ramírez-Tapia
9. Jerry Boyd
10. Paulette Durrett

Absent

1. Alice Fisher
2. Wesley Ireland
3. Carl Richardson

Approval of Minutes

- Member Zary Amirhosseini made a motion to approve the October 2023 meeting minutes. Member Jerry Boyd seconded the motion. Member Elizabeth Dean-Clower requested an amendment to the minutes to better reflect her comments during the October meeting that the disability community is not a monolith. The change was made. The motion was carried unanimously.

Presentation - Boston Brakes Campaign: *Colleen Flanagan*

- A campaign raising awareness of pedestrians with disabilities.
 - Inspired by the work of the Disabilities Commission Advisory Board and the late disability advocate David Vieira of Hyde Park.
- As Boston moves toward becoming a healthier, greener, more resilient city, traditional uses of sidewalk curb zones have shifted to meet sustainability goals. New elements are being added along the curb.
- To raise awareness of, and increase safety for, pedestrians with disabilities on Boston's public rights of way as our city embraces a changing infrastructure.
 - Shared safety tips made on animation video and infographic
 - Described what pedestrians with disabilities want cyclists to be aware of.
- Outreach of Boston Brakes
 - 65 print ads in bus shelters across the city
 - 21 presentations in 6 months to groups that ranged from school age youth, senior centers, colleges & university clubs, and cyclist community events
 - Grew the Disabilities Commission Instagram to over 500 followers
 - Shared infographic with 26 bike shops in the city that they posted in store and made available to customers
- For more information visit www.boston.gov/boston-brakes

Chair's Report - presented by Vice Chair Duysa Lyubovskaya

- Chair Wesley Ireland sent his apologies for not being available for today's meeting because he is attending a funeral for a Lewiston shooting victim.
- The City of Boston just swore in the first Deaf Somali Police Officer! Mayor Wu was in attendance of swearing in.
- The City of Boston Captions Ordinance is one year old
- Election Day just recently passed and there will be new City Councilors coming to City Hall. Asked Board if they should write a welcome letter to make sure they know we exist.

Commissioner's Report: *Kristen McCosh*

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

- There is a Public Forum being held by the Bay State Council for the Blind, RTAG, and BCIL about Uber and Lyft Refusal of Service Animals - Thursday, November 9th, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Zoom
- My office is participating in the annual Special Education Resource Fair being held by Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC) on Thursday, November 16, from 5-7 pm at the Murphy
- The Mayor's Digital Team would like to gather some stock images of people with disabilities:
 - Riding the T, and service dogs on the T
 - White cane users at crosswalks
 - A video or audio snippet of audible crosswalks
 - People with disabilities at local landmarks, City Hall Plaza, State House, etc.

Pathways to Employment with the City of Boston

- [Pathways to Employment](#) will be held on Tuesday, Nov 14th, 12 noon to 1:30 on Zoom
 - Annual event held by our office during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)
 - Breaks down barriers and demystifies the process of gaining employment with the City of Boston

City Hall Plaza - One Year Review

- My department will put a message in our newsletter asking for feedback on their experiences traversing City Hall Plaza over the past year
- The Property Management Department is happy to do a walk-through with Board members to review the condition of the bricks. Shared dates that PMD is available.

2024 Updates

- Reminder that our meeting scheduled for December 20th is canceled
- We will send out the 2024 schedule as soon as it is confirmed
- Elections will be held in February, so be prepared to propose nominations in January
- You are all welcome and encouraged to attend monthly Zoom meetings with the CODA group (Commission on Disabilities Alliance) made up of members from local Disability Commissions

Curb Ramp Implementation Plan

- The City is working to install/upgrade curb ramps throughout Boston as part of a [2021 consent decree](#)
- Required to create an Implementation Plan and solicit feedback from residents with mobility disabilities
- We are planning to hold a public meeting before the end of the year to get feedback on 2 specific issues:
 - Priority list of locations for accessible curb ramps
 - Input on curb ramps that cannot be made fully compliant due to existing constraints (natural topography, narrow sidewalks, private property, etc.)

City Boards and Commissions

- Disability representation is a key piece of the City's equity work, and we want you to put your experience and expertise to good use! There are currently open seats on the Freedom Trail Commission, Conservation Commission (parks and open space), Boston Civic Design Commission
- If you have friends or colleagues in the disability community who may be interested in serving on a City Board or Commission, ask them to contact us! The City has over 40 boards and commissions in all areas of local government - housing, education, voting, development, and more!

Questions from the Board:

- Member Olivia Richard commented that Boston Brakes should be extended to driver education programs.

Architectural Access Report

- None

Announcements

- None

Old Business

- Member Jerry Boyd addressed the need for the board to address End of Life legislation and made motion to discuss the issue further, Member Paul Caron seconded

- Discussion about history of how End of Life care issues got on the Disability Commission Advisory Board Agenda
- Reminder that during previous legislation sessions, and iterations of the Advisory Board, the Board has written letters opposing legislation
- Reminder that Carl Richardson was asked to give an procedural update on Medical Aid in Dying legislation
- Discussion about how the decision to take a position could be a difficult one if the Board does not have all the information about the impact of the legislation and the views of various impacted groups.
 - Concern that predicting the legislative calendar can be difficult.
- A question was raised about how to move this agenda item out of old business
 - A vote would need to be made to not discuss the issue again.
- Member Charlie Kim raised the need for a list of outstanding old business items
 - Andrea Patton responded she can create that list

New Business

- none

Public Input

- Rea Inegbdion a PHD student at UMASS Boston School for School for Global Inclusion & Social Development- learned of the Advisory Board from ICI and is very interested in how this board works. Would like to know of opportunities to use expertise and expand my network. In particular assisting newcomers with disabilities who recently arrived to Boston
 - Commissioner Kristen McCosh explained the work of the Advisory Board and the work as a city department to ensure accessibility and inclusion to all residents and visitors with disabilities in the City of Boston. To get involved it is recommended to sign up for the Disability Commission

Adjournment

- Member Olivia Richard made the motion to adjourn. Member Jerry Boyd seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously
 - Adjourned- 6:54pm