



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Commission on Disability

WILLIAM A. FLANAGAN
Mayor

WILLIAM FONTAINE
Chairman

DENNIS POLSELLI
Vice Chairman

Minutes from August 14, 2014

Called to Order: 2:03 PM

- 1) Roll Call: Chairman William Fontaine, Vice-Chair. Dennis Polselli, Debbie Pacheco, Lisa Atkinson, Daniel Robillard, Michael Geary, Attorney Gary Howayeck, ADA Coordinator

Excused: Ken Pacheco

Staff: Claudia Viens, HHS

Chairman Fontaine opened the meeting by reading the "Open Meeting Law" from the Open Meeting Law Guide.

Chair. Fontaine stated there was a complaint filed against the Chairman. The complaint was made by Mr. Higgins and was sent to Mayor Flanagan, City Administrator Cathy-Ann Viveiros and the Law Department from May 19, 2014.

- 2) Public Input: None
- 3) Acceptance of minutes: from July 10, 2014
Motion: Daniel Robillard
Second: Lisa Atkinson
- 4) Bills and Communications:
Motion for Executive Session complaint
Motion: Vice Chair. Polselli
Second: Mike Geary

Reconvene Time to regular meeting at 2:18 p.m.

5) Awareness:

a) ADA Awareness Celebration:

Vice Chair. Polselli stated that ADA Awareness Day will basically be the same as in the past. Mayor Flanagan will speak and two Commissioners will be sworn in. Also he suggested having a guest speaker Professor Les Cory and would like to ask the Mayor to present him with a Citation. ADA Awareness Day will be on Thursday, October 2 between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Atrium.

Chair. Fontaine stated if anyone has ideas for ADA Awareness Day to email them to Vice Chair. Polselli.

Motion to invite Professor Les Cory to ADA Awareness Day.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Mike Geary

Lisa Atkinson asked the Commission if they would consider changing the date for ADA Awareness Day.

Chair. Fontaine stated that it was discussed last month and ADA Awareness Day will stay on the same day.

Vice Chair. Polselli stated we should consider next year is the 25th Anniversary. We might want to consider having it on July 26 the actual day of signing of the ADA.

b) Distribution of Commission Brochure:

Chair. Fontaine stated the Commission Brochure were in. One idea was to see if we could have them inserted in the Footprints. Some other ideas were Fall River Housing Authority, Mass Rehab, SCIL, Fall River Public Library, Fall River Administration Bld, Truesdale Health, Prima Care, Hospitals. If anyone has any suggestions, contact Claudia Viens and we could start distributing them to the community.

6. New Business

a) Election of Officers

Chair. Fontaine would like to make a motion to postpone the election until September.

Motion: Lisa Atkinson

Second: Mike Geary

b) ADA/AAB Sub-Committee report and recommendations for 08/08/14

Daniel Robillard asked if it would be possible when there is any sub-committee meeting of this Commission, could the Commissioners be notified by email.

Chair. Fontaine stated the Chair. will be responsible for making sure

Claudia Viens knows when we are having a meeting and posted properly.

Daniel Robillard also asked if the Sub-Committee report be read at the Commission on Disability meetings.

Chair. Fontaine stated yes and to consider changing the by-laws for the Chairman to appoint someone to read the Sub-Committee minutes.

The Sub-Committee is asking permission to act on the following four motions:

Motion to contact the City Clerk to see if there are any Ordinances pertaining to parking lot, re-surfacing, re-striping.

Motion: Vice Chair. Polselli

Second: Daniel Robillard

Motion to contact Mass In Motion, Champions for Walk Able Fall River, Mr. Andrade or Julianne Kelly to work with them and share the information they collected. We can find out if it is ADA/AAB Compliant.

Motion: Vice Chair. Polselli

Second: Daniel Robillard

Motion for Vice Chair. Polselli to contact AAB and see if they could come to Fall River and present a work shop for Government Center Staff and Department Heads.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Mike Geary

Attorney Gary Howayeck suggested inviting local architects, not just Government Center employees.

Motion to request a meeting with Fall River City Administrator Viveiros – Mr. Pacheco – ADA Coordinator Howayeck, concerning the lack of response from Mr. Biszko regarding AAB complaints filed by the Commission with his office.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Lisa Atkinson

Motion to accept full Sub-Committee report.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Debbie Pacheco

7. Old Business:

- a) Motion for Items in Old Business to be tabled until Sept. 11, 2014.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Vice Chair. Polselli

Motion to take the meeting out of order to Awareness.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Lisa Atkinson

Vice Chair. Polselli stated he has two issues to discuss with the Commission. The first issue is the elimination of the Information Desk. The monitor in Government Center is all-visual. Someone who is blind or visual impaired will have a difficult time navigating the Government Center. Having a person at the Information Desk is a reasonable accommodation to provide? The second issue is the Handicap Accessible Rest Rooms will be locked and the key is located on the second floor.

Motion that a letter be sent to Mayor Flanagan with some of the ADA issues and ask if he could reverse the policy.

Motion: Vice Chair. Polselli

Second: Daniel Robillard

Daniel Robillard stated he would like to see the City of Fall River on their stationary, public meetings or public events to have a section that states a contact for someone with Disabilities.

Vice Chair. Polselli stated the Sub-Committee recommends have a discussion with the ADA Co-coordinator. It is a written policy in all municipal governments.

8. Agenda for September 11, 2014

- a) Bristol Elder Services- Safe Keeping
- b) Handicap abuse program discussion
- c) Possible meeting with – Committee on Ordinances and Legislation
- d) Election of Offices

9. Adjourn: 3:15 pm

Motion: Debbie Pacheco

Second: Daniel Robillard