



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Commission on Disability

WILLIAM A. FLANAGAN
Mayor

WILLIAM FONTAINE
Chairman

DENNIS POLSELLI
Vice Chairman

Minutes from September 12, 2013

Called to Order: 2:02 PM

- 1) Roll Call: Chairman William Fontaine, Vice-Chair. Dennis Polselli,
Ken Pacheco, Debbie Pacheco, Michael Geary, Brenda Ritz, HHS
Excused: Lisa Atkinson

- 2) Public Input:
 - a) Dan Robillard of 145 Old Second Street stated that this Commission should meet monthly. He further stated the following;

 - b) He would also like the Mayor to appoint more members to bring a full membership (9) to the Commission.

 - c) Mr. Robillard stated the Elk's Lodge at 4500 N. Main St. is fully accessible (wheelchair) in the rear of the building on the 1st level.

 - d) Mr. Robillard stated Southeast Regional Transit Authority is not issuing bus ID's through Council on Aging. Disabled residents of Fall River should not have to travel to New Bedford for a bus ID.

Chairman William Fontaine asked Dan Robillard to provide him with information regarding the bus ID for SRTA. He will then bring it back to the Commission and put it on October Agenda.

Chairman William Fontaine stated the Commission is interested in having people join us. If people are available and willing to serve on the Commission, please send a letter to the Mayor expressing your interest. If no one applies, we work with those who are on the Commission.

Dennis Polselli asked if the Elk's Lodge assessable entrance is open at all times and is it open to public. Chair Fontaine said he will check on that.

Mike Geary stated we do meet monthly.

3) Acceptance of minutes: from August 8, 2013

Motion: Mike Geary

Second: Debbie Pacheco

Chairman William Fontaine asked to go into Executive Session regarding Handicap Abuse Program

Motion: Ken Pacheco

Second: Mike Geary

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman William Fontaine – yes

Vice-Chair. Dennis Polselli – yes

Ken Pacheco – yes

Deb Pacheco – yes

Mike Geary – yes

Motion to adjourn Executive Session: Deb Pacheco

Second: Mike Geary

Reconvene Time to regular meeting at 2:30 p.m.

4) Bills and Communications:

- a) Chairman William Fontaine received a letter from Partner's for a Healthy Community in Somerset/Swansea/Fall River/Westport. They are looking to add someone to their Board. Deb Pacheco stated she would look it over and then discuss it with Mr. Fontaine.
- b) Chair Fontaine stated we received a letter from Grey House Publishing, which is offering a complete directory on people with disabilities. He asked if there was anyone interested in purchasing one to see him for the letter.
- c) Abilities Tech. Expo will be held in Boston – Sept. 20, 21, 22 at Boston Convention Center – free, 102 vendors will be present to show the latest technologies available.
- d) SHARE newsletter – Sept. 28th Walk for Share Contact Paul Remy for more information.

5) Awareness:

- a) ADA Awareness Day – October 3, 2013 –

Ken Pacheco made a motion to increase the amount allocated for the ADA Day for spending to \$1,000.00

Second: Mike Geary

Mr. Polselli stated he would like the same type programming as last year. He would also like Ms. Laurel Clark from the Library to give a demonstration on the

e-book platform. He stated he would contact the MIS Dept. or the Mayor's office for the setting up for the computer demo.

- b) Commission Brochure – Deb Pacheco will send brochure to Legal Dept. and then Mayor's office for review.
 - c) Emergency Planning – The Chairman spoke to Rick Aguiar, EMA Director. Chair. Fontaine submitted Mike Geary to be a representative on the emergency planning group.
Chairman William Fontaine will be the alternate person.
 - d) Off Site Meetings – will be on October Agenda for discussion and opinions on how to implement off site meetings.
- 6) Old Business:
- a) Commission website: Chairman Fontaine asked Ken Pacheco to assist in the updating of information pertaining to the Commission, on the Fall River web site.
 - b) Kennedy Park Overlook – Mike Geary spoke of his difficulty accessing a ceremony held at the pavilion because of the absence of a curb cut from the parking lot to the pavilion; also the parking lot is not stripped. Ken Pacheco will inform the engineer and designers of the park, and to address these issues.
 - c) Reney/Eastwood Fire Station on Eastern Ave. has holes on the sidewalk making it difficult for those in a wheelchair to enter the Station to vote.
 - d) Chairman William Fontaine will contact Ms. Camara to go through the voting areas. Mr. Pacheco asked to go along to check so hopefully before the election in November to make any repairs needed.
 - e) Mr. Biszko was not present at the meeting. Mr. Pacheco will contact Mr. Biszko or a representative from his office to come to the October meeting.
 - f) Braille machine – Ken Pacheco is waiting for quotes for the machine and quotes for services with a 72-hour response time.
 - g) Sub Committee – Ken Pacheco will send the Sub-Committee members the totals of HP tickets issued by: Regular Police Patrols; Auxiliary Police; Parking Control Officers and Environmental Police.
Totals to be separated by individual groups. For the years 2009 to 2012.
- 7) New Business:
- a) AAB and ADA Compliance – Chairman William Fontaine has appointed Mr. Polselli, Mr. Geary and Chair. Fontaine to a committee to meet with Ken Pacheco and Christy M. DiOrio, Esq. to discuss having protocols in place for AAB compliance.

8) Agenda: October 10, 2013

Awareness Day

Emergency Planning

Mr. Biszko, - Director of Inspectional Services (or a representative)

Elderly Complex - Off-Site Meetings

Braille Service

9) Adjourn:

Motion: Debbie Pacheco

Second: Mike Geary