



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Commission on Disability

WILLIAM A. FLANAGAN
Mayor

WILLIAM FONTAINE
Chairman

DENNIS POLSELLI
Vice Chairman

Minutes from May 8, 2014

Called to Order: 2:00 PM

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

Excused: Debbie Pacheco

Guest: Chief Richard Aguiar

- 2) Public Input: None
- 3) Acceptance of minutes: from March 20, 2014
Motion: Mike Geary
Second: Ken Pacheco

Chair. Fontaine stated there is a correction to the motion Mr. Pacheco made on the HP Abuse Program. There were 4 yeah and 1 no.

- 4) Bills and Communications:

- a) Housing Authority Meeting

Chair. Fontaine, Vice-Chair. Polselli and Mr. Geary attended the Housing Authority Meeting it was an informational meeting to inform the Housing Authority that the Commission on Disability is here to help if anyone has a problem.

- b) Wheelchair Accessible Van

Ken Pacheco stated he would call City Council Clerk Ms. Taylor and see if she could have Chairman of Committee on Ordinance and Legislation Jasiel Correia contact Claudia Viens to give her an update. He will also check to see if it will be on the Agenda for next month.

5: Awareness:

- a) Chief Richard Aguiar stated the City has an Emergency Response Plan for city emergency and all the information is put in a Book and is also sent to MIMA. We put an addendum in the book pertaining to physical handicap people. We compiled all this information and it is on line in my office.

The other concern was King Phillip Mill regarding evacuation. We have an entire evacuation in place if we have to evacuate. We as a public safety need a list of people (name, phone number, next of kin) we compiled all this information. We have a list from Bristol Elders and the Fall River Housing Authority. This will help us to know there disability and we will know how to handle the evacuation.

Chair. Fontaine stated to Chief Aguiar that when he plans the Table Top Exercise City Wide to please let this Commission know and Mr. Geary could represent this Commission.

Chief Aguiar stated the city has 7 schools as evacuation destinations that are handicap accessible. Red Cross approves each shelter.

Chair. Fontaine asked Chief Aguiar if there is a plan for service animals.

Chief Aguiar stated you couldn't have animals in shelters, the only exception is for service animals.

Vice Chair. Polselli stated that not everyone in the disability community has Housing or Bristol Elders. How could a person with disability not involved in a system be put on a list?

Chief Aguiar stated they could contact his office at Office of Emergency Management, 140 Commerce Dr. Fall River, MA, (508) 324-2733 x 107.

Chief Aguiar stated the HIPPA law is a privacy act, which you cannot ask anyone for private information. The information will only be used for your safety and will not be disseminated to any entity not involved in public safety.

Lisa Atkinson stated to Chief Aguiar that she would like to say you are doing great work and hopefully the Fall River Commission on Disability can help support you in obtaining the information for the private citizens who are not in elderly housing.

Ken Pacheco stated that people can rest assure the information is confidential. Because a lot of people might not be mobile or in fear of something happening because people will know they may be defenseless.

- b) Offsite informational meetings

Chair. Fontaine stated we need some suggestions and then we can talk

about it at the meeting.

- c) Suggestions for Awareness Day 2014
Chair. Fontaine stated we need to start writing down ideas. We can then set up an ADA Committee for that day.

Ken Pacheco stated we could maybe do a Power Point with photographs we have taken and a nice piece as a backdrop.

6: Old Business:

- a) Commission Brochure
Ken Pacheco will check on the Commission Brochure.
- b) Handicap Parking Abuse program
Ken Pacheco made a motion to release the funds for HP Program.
Commissioner Atkinson, yes
Commissioner Geary, yes
Commissioner Polselli, yes
Commissioner Pacheco, yes
Commissioner Fontaine, no

Motion Carries

- c) Commission Complaints – tabled to end of meeting
- d) Mr. Remy complaint – Savers- Stafford Rd – Dressing Room access
Chair. Fontaine stated he went and brought a copy of the laws Architectural Access Board with dimensions. He spoke with the manager and asst. manager and they will extend the room to what it suppose to be.
Chair. Fontaine told them that he would be back in a reasonable amount of time.
- e) Braille service/machine
Ken Pacheco stated in July there would be money to purchase.
We can put specs on the Agenda for June.
- f) MOD Government Center survey update
Ken Pacheco stated the handicap restrooms should be open mid June.
The Braille signage is ordered and the signage for directing accessibility are here.
The Council Chambers wheelchair ramp hopefully done mid June
The door in the Council Chambers we will make that door a push pad.

Ken Pacheco stated Mr. Polselli is owed an apology from his office for not being able to get the documents to him in a fashion that is acceptable. The problem is a software issue, we purchased software. Second, my time has been on the budget. To this Board and each of my Boards I apologize for that.

- g) CD Rec – Bank St Armory – Wheelchair ramp
Ken Pacheco stated they would make repairs on the ramp, push pad, and a buzzer to ring in the front office in the near future.

Iwo Jima Monument

Ken Pacheco stated we have approval from Fish & Wildlife so it is ready to go.

Chair. Fontaine stated he would go to Engineering and ask for the plans.

Eastern Ave Fire Station handicap accessibility

Ken Pacheco stated within the next 2 to 3 weeks we could get the specs.

Chair. Fontaine stated he would like MOD to come down to look at what is proposed accessible.

Chair. Vice Polselli asked if someone in a wheelchair is attending a school field trip is there a Fire Station that is accessible?

Ken Pacheco stated the newest Fire Station is at the North End and is accessible.

Kennedy Park – parking area Playground/Pavilion accessibility

Ken Pacheco stated the work is being done by Green Acres. The work will be completed by mid-week on the playground. Then they will take care of the matter of the pavilion.

7: New Business:

Chair. Fontaine stated he would like to make a motion to go into Executive Session for discussion on a letter of interest from Mr. Daniel Robillard for consideration to join the Commission. Also, to discuss an Executive Session for March 20, 2014.

Motion: Lisa Atkinson

Second: Mike Geary

Reconvene Time to regular Meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Commission Complaints – ADA Coordinator – Mr. Biszko

Chair. Fontaine would like to make a motion for the elected body of this Commission to meet with the Mayor and City Administrator to discuss the issues from unanswered request from Dept. Heads.

Motion: Ken Pacheco

Second: Vice Chair. Polselli

Chair. Fontaine asked Mr. Pacheco as a City Representative if he would contact the Mayor.

8) Agenda:

Ms. Clark – Fall River Public Library

MOD- Government Center survey updates

Braille Machine – Specs

Chair. Fontaine stated the outcome of the Executive Session was a letter of consideration from Mr. Daniel Robillard to be appointed to the

Commission. The Commission voted as a whole to send the letter to Mayor Flannigan. Asking the Mayor to appoint Mr. Robillard for one of the vacant seats on this Commission.

To the general public we still have 2 vacant positions on the Commission on Disability if you have any interest in helping the Disability Community.

- 9) Adjourn: 3:35 p.m.
Motion: Ken Pacheco
Second: Mike Geary