



City of Fall River Massachusetts

Commission on Disability

WILLIAM A. FLANAGAN
Mayor

WILLIAM FONTAINE
Chairman

DENNIS POLSELLI
Vice Chairman

Fall River Commission on Disability
Minutes from January 10, 2013
Mass. Rehab. Commission –Conference Room
170 Pleasant St. 3rd Floor

Called to order: 2:03 PM

1. Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Fontaine, Vice-Chairman Polselli, Lisa Atkinson, Mike Geary,
Debbie Pacheco, Ken Pacheco (late arrival) Brenda Ritz, Head Clerk HHS

Excused: Dr. Vaillancourt

Absent:

Guests: Mr. Eric Rousseau, Gen. Mgr. of SRTA
Ms. JoAnn Bentley – Bentley Architect

2. Public Input: None

3. Acceptance of minutes: from December 20, 2012

Motion: Lisa Atkinson

Second: Mike Geary

4. Bills and Communications:

a) Herald News Article: Chairman Fontaine requested permission to work with Mrs.
Liz Camara, Board of Elections concerning an article in the Herald News.

Mrs. Camara received a complaint concerning the inaccessibility of the voting area for
a wheelchair user at the fire station located at the intersection of Plymouth Ave./Warren
St. Permission granted. Chair will give a report at the next meeting of the
Commission

b) A resident requested information concerning HP laws. Directed to RMV and MOD

c) Crystal Springs Newsletter from Disability Policy Consortium

5. Awareness:

a) Mr. Pollselli thanked FRGTV for their coverage of the Children's Parade. He spoke of the helpful descriptions by Mrs. Martins of the units featured in the parade.

Mr. Polselli stated that although FRGTV is a visual medium, there are residents who listen to their program as well.

6. Old Business:

a) Mr. Eric Rousseau –General Manager of SRTA

Mr. Rousseau described the changes made to lower the cost of traveling by bus for seniors/disable riders in Fall River.

Examples of saving money for riders: 10 Ride booklets for \$25.00 –

31 day pass for \$28 (previously cost \$55)

For additional information and schedules, please view SRTA web site.

b) Ms. Bentley presented an ADA compliance survey conducted by MOD at Government Center as requested by the City of Fall River.

Neither wheelchair ramp meet the ADA guidelines. Ms. Bentley completed a survey of the ramps and her findings differ from the original survey.

Ms. Bentley and Mr. Pacheco request that there be a third survey done at Government Center.

The council chambers portable wheelchair ramp is not up to compliance. Mr. Pacheco will address this issue with city officials. Replace the current ramp.

Another issue is the lack of wheelchair and companion seating in the council chambers.

Additional issues concerning non-public restrooms will be addressed. Most are easily fixed and will be corrected.

The city will be building two accessible public restrooms on the first floor at Government Center.

New office directory signage and room numbers will also be in Braille form.

Ms. Bentley will send Brenda an electronic copy of this report to be forwarded to the Commissioners.

c) Van proposal: Ken Pacheco asked for an extension until the Feb. meeting

d) Police/Budget report: Presented to members by Mrs. Ritz

7. New Business:

a) HP area –Remy's Sport Bar – Mr. Geary stated that upon visiting this establishment, he found it to be lacking proper signage/pole support. The Chairman will visit this site and report to the Commission at our next meeting.

b) Letter of interest for reappointment of Debbie Pacheco to the Commission.

Motion: Dennis Polselli to send a letter to Mayor Flanagan in support of her reappointment. Second: Lisa Atkinson

8. Agenda for February 21, 2013

- a) BETA
- b) Van/Taxi Proposal
- c) ADA Government Center update
- d) Finance sub-committee report
- e) Handicap Parking Abuse Program –FRPD
- f) ADA compliance tools- Smart Level –Door pressure gauge-tape measurer

9. Motion to Adjourn: 2:13 PM

Motion: Lisa Atkinson

Second: Mike Geary