



# City of Fall River Massachusetts

## Fall River Commission on Disability

**C. SAMUEL SUTTER**  
*Mayor*

**DENNIS POLSELLI**  
Chairman

**DEBBIE PACHECO**  
Vice Chairman

Minutes from August 20, 2015

Called to order: 2:04 P.M.

- 1) Chairman Polselli opened the meeting by reading the “Open Meeting Law” from the Open Meeting Law Guide.
- 2) Public Input: None
- 3) Roll Call: Chairman Dennis Polselli, Vice-Chairman Debbie Pacheco, Ken Pacheco, Lisa Atkinson, Daniel Robillard  
Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. ADA Coordinator

Staff: Claudia Viens, HHS

- 4) Guest presentation on the construction of an accessible playground at North Park by Ken Pacheco and Mr. Ray Dunetz:  
Mr. Pacheco stated with the success on the City of Fall River’s first Inclusion Playground at Kennedy Park. We were successful with receiving a Land/Water/Conservation Grant to build a natural inclusion playground at the North Park. The difference between the two playgrounds is the North Park will have a natural surrounding opposed to a conventional playground at Kennedy Park.

The second phase of North Park reconstruction is the natural inclusion playground.

Ray Dunetz the designer project manager showed a power point on the natural inclusion playground. There will be a walkway accessible with access to the playground. There will be an embankment slide and boogie board.

Per request of the neighborhood there will be a small ample theater to have performances. Also, the playground will have accessible picnic tables, bench swing and an accessible bubbler.

Charlton Memorial Hospital has also adopted the North Park. They donated a Grant for \$25,000 and will help maintain the playground.

5) Acceptance of minutes: from June 11, 2015

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Ken Pacheco

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

6) Work Group Updates:

- a. AAB/ADA: Signage for Government Center - Mr. Pacheco stated there are two vendors that are working on the signage for Government Center. They will send us some samples and they will do a complete packet for Chairman Polselli to make sure the Brail is appropriate.

Monitors (Directory's) – Mr. Pacheco stated the monitors are currently silent and have the capability of audio. The City is working on connecting them to audio. Where the elevator is located there will be a motion detector to trigger the audio prompt. Once you enter the elevator it will also be audio.

Taxi Cab Survey – There were 600 surveys mailed with three questions.

1. If there was an accessible taxi would you use it?
2. What do you think of public transportation in Fall River?
3. Would you be interested in serving on the Commission on Disability?

Mr. Pacheco stated he strongly suggest the way to have a medallion is to have one taxi cab accessible twenty four hours at the regular taxi rate. Also, the taxi cab will have an audio piece for the fee. If someone needs help door to door the fee would have to stay running. We need to put the audio piece in the ordinance.

b. Commission Policies:

Motion for the Fall River Commission on Disability to meet at least 10 times annually and have the election of officers to be held every September.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Lisa Atkinson

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

- c. Finance: Mrs. Atkinson stated the 484 Fund needs to be reinstated. It should have not been eliminated it should have been enhanced with the recommendations we submitted in January. It is a vital piece of information for the finance workgroup as well as this Commission.

As far as the Enforcement Program we would like to ask Attorney Howayeck if he could draft up a contract with the FRPD for the next fiscal year. Attorney Howayeck suggested that Chief Racine could draft a Memorandum of Understanding. Then the Commission could make suggestions.

Lisa Atkinson stated if the Police Officers could wait a little longer, they could educate the person. That is not happening, that is why we are seeing a large number of appeals because they are not legitimate tickets.

The Traffic Division Report we would like that information provided to this Commission on a monthly basis. A few things need to be added such as: Date of the hearing, the reason for the hearing, the ticket number, the outcome/result and what the payment arrangement will be.

Ticket Citation should run Fiscal Year. We would like a monthly report and at the end of the year. We feel that the Department of the Traffic Division should create a policy to charge a \$25 minimum fee when a ticket is reduced.

- d. Outreach: ADA Awareness Day Thursday, October 22, 2015  
This year is special it is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Chairman Polselli suggest to have the ADA Awareness Day in The Fall River Room. I would like to suggest two speakers, Elaine Ostroff, former Chair. of the Westport Commission Disabilities and Director of MOD, David D'Arcangelo. Mr. Pacheco will also present a power point presentation. Chairman Polselli also suggest to invite Legislature Delegation that represent the City of Fall River.

Chairman Polselli would also like to arrange an appearance on WSAR in October.

Motion to approve up to \$1,000 on expenditures for ADA Awareness Day, October 22, 2015.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Lisa Atkinson

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

Chairman Polselli and Mr. Robillard are talking about social media. It might be a way to enhance our outreach for this Commission to have a Facebook page.

Motion to table outreach agenda and social media.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Ken Pacheco

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

- 7) Feedback from meeting of municipal commission on Disability in Boston on August 5, 2015: The Commission can now conduct meetings remotely. As long as the Chairman or a designated person was present at the site of the meeting. Then the Chairman could conduct the meeting remotely. This is new to the Open Meeting Law and it is a piece of the Open Meeting Law exclusive to Disability Commissions in the State of Massachusetts.

Ken Pacheco stated he would suggest tabling the remote participation until ADA Coordinator Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. has a conversation with the Attorney from Massachusetts Office on Disability. We also need to find out if the room has access to have a conference call and we need some rules to follow.

Motion for research of remote participation in Commission meetings, the newest amendment to the open meeting Law to be Tabled to the October 8, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Ken Pacheco

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

- 8) Old Business: None

- 9) New Business: Attorney Howayeck stated he will be attending the Massachusetts Disability Summit on September 18, 2015 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition.

Daniel Robillard stated at the conference on August 5, 2015 we asked a question regarding misuse funding. I was not satisfied with the answer. There has to be someone who can clarify the question, on how the State sends the misuse funding to the City of Fall River for our tracking.

Motion to refer the misuse collection to Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. ADA Coordinator for further study and to report back to the Commission.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Debbie Pacheco

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

Motion this Board to send a letter to Traffic Commission requesting for a Pilate Program to put HP marker on two curb cuts in different areas in the city for parking issues.

Motion: Daniel Robillard

Second: Debbie Pacheco

All in favor none opposed abstentions: 0

Mr. Pacheco stated the letter to Mayor Sutter regarding the city be allowed to take back Old Second St., will be corrected and then sent to Chairman Polselli.

Agenda for September 10, 2015

- a) Guest Executive Director of the YMCA of Greater Fall River
- b) Elections
- c) Work Group updates

- 10) Adjourn: 4: 02 pm
  - Motion: Debbie Pacheco
  - Second: Dan Robillard