

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

AGENDA – February 13, 2018 6:00 PM

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL

Ralph DeCicco - Chair

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Salute to the Flag

Roll Call of Members: Present Robert Bent, Ralph DeCicco, Michelle DeBellis, David Hahey

Absent: Enza Goodwin, Paul Mazzone

Item #1: Our Commission on Disabilities applied for a Mini- Grant through the partnership of MGH Revere CARES Coalition and the City of Revere's Healthy Community Initiatives Department. We applied for this grant for a program that commission member Robert Bent suggested. With this program we will create and establish a safe environment for the disabled youth of all ages and be able to learn and implement artistic, social, educational and emotional skills so they feel like they belong and are the same as the abled body youth and young adults in our city. Also it is a way to show the volunteers who do not have disabilities a way to help and assist with people of all abilities allowing them to learn how they function in society on a day to day basis being disabled physically, mentally or emotionally.

This was at the suggestion of member Robert Bent and we were awarded this mini grant. An art program for disabled children will take place mid to late spring location to be determined. Ages will range from age 2 and up and location will be advised once secured. All art products will be purchased with the funds awarded. The hope is volunteers from the community and also high school students will partake and engage in this program.

Item #2: Update on The Commission on Disabilities in conjunction with the Mayor's office hosting the Spring Metro Regional Commission on Disability Meeting by the MOD in Revere.

- With the approval from Mayor Arrigo we will be hosting this meeting on Tuesday May 1st from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. This meeting is for all Disability Coordinators, Administrators and Commission Members in this region.**

Item #3: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting For February: Had a conference call on last Wednesday the 5th and items on the Agenda included a Variance Seminar that will be taking place at Boston City Hall on Friday May 18th and they will be sending out further information on this. They also briefly discussed the state parking guide. Which they will be going into more detail on future calls. Another topic discussed was the alliances continued goal setting items for 2018 and asked everyone to think about ideas. I also mentioned that Revere will be hosting the spring Metro Regional Commission on Disabilities Meeting for the State MOD in May. One other item I mentioned that I would like to discuss on our call next month is exploring a way in which hospitals and medical buildings agree to allow a fee exemption for people attending an appointment or procedure that have either a HP Placard or Plate in Massachusetts. This is not only applicable at medical and hospital garages or lots in many European countries but also privately owned parking lots and garages. They are going to place it on our calls Agenda for next month and I will keep everyone updated.

Robert Bent made some suggestions to bring up on the call regarding how to show eligibility.

Item #4: Update regarding the idea and desire to have a fully accessible playground /park built by the HYM Development Group at Suffolk Downs.

- **Since I mentioned that at our last meeting I have spoke to Bob O'Brien who is part of our Economics Development Office regarding my desire to see this established and was in full support. My timing was perfect as he was writing a proposal to the development group on what the City of Revere would want and like to see at this site. Mr. O'Brien was going to add this in the proposal. Also he said that he would like me to be part of more elaborate discussions with the development group in the near future.**

I have also mentioned to Patricia Mendez who is the Architectural Access Specialist for the City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities office my idea regarding the fully accessible ADA approved municipal playground on The Suffolk Downs development project either in Revere, East Boston both or in the middle of the project. She loved the thought of implementing this and would bring it to the rest of her members. Since our original conversation I received an email that they are delighted of the opportunity to join the City of Revere in its accessibility goals, and particularly in support of accessible playgrounds at the project site. They would like to invite me to Boston City Hall to meet with their development team. Her team is part of the BPDA review process. I just need to check my calendar to give them some possible dates and times for the next 2 or 3 weeks.

Today I sent Patricia an email and will be trying to coordinate a date and time for myself and Bob O'Brien from our Economic Development Department to meet with her and their team to discuss this further along with discussing our mutual cooperation with the Complete Streets guidelines and implementation at the Suffolk Downs development.

Item #5 Update of City Events for February:

- **Drop and stay play group continues to run on Monday nights from 6 to 7:30 PM at the Revere Rec. See our drop and stay play group Facebook page for more information.**
- **On Monday, February 12 Our drop and stay play group will run a Valentine's Day party for children ages 2-9 for \$5 per child**
- **Sepac will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00 at the Revere League for Special Needs.**

Item #6: Old Business.

- **Update regarding Municipal ADA Planning Grant that Revere COD applied for.**

We received a letter dated February, 2018 that unfortunately we were not included in this round of funding again.

- **Update regarding Metro Boston Homeland Security Region (MBHSR) Working Group. Project Management Team (PMT).**

Along with Captain Todisco from the Revere Fire Department I attended the Kick off meeting along with several other surrounding jurisdictions involved at the EOC Central office In Roxbury on February 1 to meet with Tetra Tech who was awarded the contract. They went over information, timelines and next steps in the process and implementation and creation of a new CTN plan. We received an email today that next step is the individual city/town meetings and ours in Revere will be Monday February 26th. They have given us a survey to send out to local transportation agencies to see if they would be able to facilitate the needs in the plan and then be able to attend our meeting along with other city department heads.

- **Update regarding City of Revere Commission on Disabilities Accessibility Survey.**

Surveys are coming are coming in and we are also receiving calls and are assisting residents on how to download the Survey online. WE were not able to send them out with the city census because of the cost and we decided to send out a letter explaining how and where one can be picked up or downloaded online. We look forward to receiving these surveys back because since there was not an active Commission on Disability's for several years we would like to know who the disabled residents are in our community. Thanks to Mayor Arrigo and his administration for seeing the need for our Commission and reestablishing it this will greatly benefit all our disabled residents and families, especially when it comes to services and programs we look to implement along with infrastructure needs. Without us knowing who is out there we really do not know.

Item #7: Late Items.

- **Robert Bent discussed the possibility of a handicap button being placed on the ground floor side door of city hall making it more accessible to get into the building for our handicapped citizens. Chair Ralph DeCicco mentioned we should also inquire on one being placed on the Legion at the ISD Entrance door 249R Broadway. A Motion was made by Robert Bent and seconded for the Commission to send a letter to the Mayor's office asking for this.**
- **Commission Member David Haesy announced he has stepped down as Co Chair effective in January and will stay on as an active board member. He sent the Board an email after our January 9th monthly meeting.**

Item #8 Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback.

None

Item #9 Reminder:

- **The Commission on Disabilities has office hours on Fridays from 8:15-12:15 in the Veterans Services Office in the rear of the legion Building at 249R Broadway which is next door to city hall. You can call for an appointment if you would like but do not need one. You will be able to talk to someone from our 311 Constituent Service Center on other days when you call our office at 781-286-8267 They will be able to answer most questions but if they are unable to or if you would like a call back from our office they can transfer you to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as they can.
Also please let us know if you would like something discussed or brought up and added to our monthly meeting agenda. You can let us know if you would like to come and speak on it. Our Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.**

Happy Valentine's Day to Everyone.

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday March 13, 2018 at 6:00 PM