

CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON, DISABILITIES
AGENDA – June 12, 2018 7:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
Ralph DeCicco Chair Rick Freni Vice Chair
Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267



Salute to the Flag

Moment of Silence in honor of School Committeeman Fred Sanella's wife Grace Sannella who recently passed away.

Roll Call of Members: Present: Ralph DeCicco, Rick Freni, Enza Goodwin, Robert Bent
Absent: Michelle DeBellis, Paul Mazzone, David Haesy

Item #1: CODA- (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) Monthly Conference call Meeting on Wednesday June 6th. Items on the Agendas included continued discussion from last month's call regarding:

- **Strong support for Senate Bill 1379 and House Bill 2498 "An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board". S. 1379 and H. 2498 would align our state access regulations of the Architectural Access Board (AAB), with the federal architectural regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Aligning the AAB with the ADA is imperative to ensuring access to employment, housing, and equal civil and human rights for all people with disabilities across the commonwealth.**

Chairman DeCicco adds that communication emailed to our local and state delegations asking for their support for the aforementioned bills. State Rep Roselee Vincent sent letter to commission acknowledging her support and she sent a letter to House Ways and Means Chairmen Sanchez. No further conversation

Item #2: COD Budget Hearing with Ways and Means Sub Committee

Chairman DeCicco states comments on upcoming year end goals and past accomplishments. One highlight is with city administration and council adopting 8J. Meet with the state COD last month to adopt 22G. Monies for handicap violations in Revere should go to COD. Stated over \$50K in violations were collected for FY2017 and over \$30K again for FY2018 as of 5-25-18. Stated the town of Burlington Ma collect handicap fees and monies go to their COD to assist with Handicap Accessibility throughout their town. Also talked about looking into the feasibility on how to possibly increase the handicap parking violation fees. No further questions

Enza Goodwin reads and comments on the following:

Item #3: Reminder of Scheduled Events for June

- **Drop and Stay Playgroup continues to host Monday night playgroup at the Revere Recreation at 6:00. Please consider coming and meeting other children and families. Our contact information can be found on the Parks and Recreation website.**
- **Revere SEPAC held its Basic Rights Meeting in May. It reviewed the IEP process and gave parents insight into the process. We are holding our next meeting on Wednesday, June 13th at the Revere League for Special Needs at 6:00. At that time we will be holding elections for 4 key positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.**
- **Revere SEPAC in collaboration with Revere Public Schools is planning a summer calendar of events that will take place in conjunction with the Extended School Year program. More information to follow later this month. Enza Goodwin said a flyer will be created and sent to chairman for posting on the COD website**
- **Special Needs Children of All Abilities Dance Movement Summer Program Ages 5-9. This amazing program will run 5 weeks every Weds from 3:30-4:15pm beginning July 11, 2018 located at Dance Junction 344 Central Street Saugus, Ma 01906. Pre registration is required; once the class is full you will be placed on a waiting list and notified if a spot opens up. Please feel free to contact Michelle DeBellis should you have any questions at michellecass74@yahoo.com. Enza also mentioned there would be a brief meeting for the newly elected board after meeting. Also stated they are looking for a new place for their monthly SEPAC meetings as the current building does not allow children to be with parents/guardians. Looking for a more social setting.**

Item #4: Old Business

- **Continued Discussion and Ideas on COD Sub Committees and Duties
Chairman Decicco said we will carry this over and continue discussions at our next scheduled meeting in August.**
- **Update on Children's Full Inclusion Art Program
Rick Freni spoke that St Mary's Parish of Revere is willing to donate the lower level hall for this project. We are looking at an August/September timeline. Also stated this is not free babysitting, parent/guardians are responsible for staying with their child during the free Art program. There will be no cost to the attendees. Rick also mentioned that he has found an art teacher to volunteer her time for this program. Robert Bent acknowledged the great work of Chairman Decicco for applying for and securing the monies to allow this program and thanks Rick Freni for securing site.**

- **Update On Accessibility Surveys**

Chairman DeCicco states that and only a small percentage of surveys were returned. He went into detail on the surveys and how prominent they are so we can help the community. States surveys must come back to us so the city can provide assistance. Chairman passed around results of the survey and so we can see where the weaknesses and strengths are.

- **Any Updates on Automatic Door Openers**

Chairman DeCicco stated he spoke to Mayors office to help. He has also been in communication with DPW Director Paul Argenzio who also looking into gathering the information.

Chairman DeCicco added these auto door opening buttons are for the City Hall basement door and rear entrance of the American Legion Building where the offices of the COD and Veterans Affairs are located. Also one at the front entrance of the Legion Building once the new stair way/ramp is installed.

Item #5: Late Items. (Will be discussed if any arise after posting of this Agenda)

- **Rick Freni asked for the Mayor to hold a public hearing to remove David Haesy from the COD Board. Rick stated the need for concerned citizens who are willing to step up and help the disabled community. Also mentioned since he has been on the board, two members, including Dave Haesy have not been present for a few months. Rick also stated that the other member should consider resigning as he too has been absent and not helping the COD and city. There will be no ill feelings if the member does not have the time anymore or things have changed in their life that make t hard to commit to the monthly meetings along with other things that we will be trying to implement.**

Chairman DeCicco asked if this was a motion being made and Rick Freni said yes and he made a motion that a letter will be sent to the Mayor's office asking Mayor Arrigo so formally send a certified letter to Mr. Haesy to appear for a Public Hearing asking for his resignation since he has not been at numerous meetings and informed chairmen DeCicco on May 7, 2018 that he would not be at the May 8, 2018 meeting and would no longer be a member on the Commission on Disabilities Board and effectively resigning as of May 8, 2018. Further stating that his formal letter would be sent to the Mayor on the morning of May 8, 2018 which still has not occurred and the Chairmen has sent him several emails and phone message since then with the last attempt to contact him on June 6, 2018. Also Chairmen DeCicco sent an email to both his city email address and personal email on June 6, 2018 and also has left him several phone messages throughout this time without any responses. The Motion was seconded by Robert bent and everyone was in favor.

Enza Goodwin commented that voices are needed on the commission and empty chairs do not help anyone.

- **Rick Freni stated he spoke to Parks & Rec Director Mike Hinojosa about renewing the Kids of Abilities events that were held under the former administration. Rick said because of illness the past 2 years he was unable to put anything together. Rick stated the Mike was very responsive and asked us for a few dates to hold a soccer/baseball/basketball games to start with. Food will be provided at all events and there is no cost to the attendees. Mike did ask that we provide volunteers for each event and work with him to guarantee a successful event. Rick stated that we need to look at Parks & Rec calendar events for the year and to choose a few open dates for each event we want to plan.**
- **Chairman DeCicco added the Mayor's office was working with Revere Recreation to purchase basketball hoops that adjust for children with disabilities.**
- **Robert Bent suggested a fundraiser walk for all abilities. Regardless of your diagnosis we should have all citizens of the Revere Community to participate for a "Walk for All Abilities". This was received well by the other members of the COD and would be looked into further as this is another large undertaking by the COD. Chairman Decicco asked Robert to draft a letter for a proposal of this event to the Mayor's office.**

Item #6: Open Forum – Residents concerns with ongoing issues, questions or feedback

Item #7: Next Steps

- **Chairman DeCicco spoke about and invitation that the COD received for the upcoming Moroccan Culture Festival on June 23 on Shirley Ave and how the proceeds from a soccer tourney will go to the high school scholarship funds dedicated to Bob Haas.**
- **Chairman DeCicco asked Rick Freni to confirm that he will draft a letter for a public hearing to the Mayor's office asking for the removal of David Haesy. A vote was taken by the COD and was voted 4 Yea – 0 Nay- and 3 Absentees to move this motion forward.**
- **Robert Bent to draft a letter to send to the Mayor's office on behalf of the COD for a proposal to see about creating "Walk for All Abilities" yearly fundraiser event. This event would be great way for the citizens of Revere to come together and a help establish funds for projects and programs for our disabled residents and families**

Item #8: Reminder-

The Commission on Disabilities office hours is 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 any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.

Chairman DeCicco reminded everyone that the COD office will be closed on Friday July 6th but any concerns can be made by phone or email to the COD office.

Adjournment- Next Meeting will be Tuesday August 14, 2018 at 6:00 PM. There will not be a meeting in July.