Commission on Disabilities: Meeting Notes – May 9, 2017 – 6 PM

Members present:

Ralph DeCicco David Hahesy Paul Mazzone Enza Goodwin Michelle DeBellis

Members absent:

Harvey Corin and Bryan Arciero

Item #1 Continuation, Update and Discussion Regarding Commission Member Harvey Corin from our April Meeting: Mr. Corin wants to remain and serve on the Commission. Mr. Corin has health problems which prohibit him from driving. It was decided that he will phone in for monthly meetings. We will try this for 2 or 3 months to see how it works.

Item #2 Revere Beach Access for People with Disabilities Discussion: Mr. Gravellese has spoken to Representative Vincent's office to discuss cost to get a mat to go over the sand from the bandstand to water's edge. He is also interested in extending the current mat at the Satter House. Mr. Hahesy will reach out to Mr. Tom McCarthy at DCR.

Item #3 Update Regarding Commission on Disability State ADA Planning Grant: Ms. Julie DeMauro spoke on the progress that she and Mr. DeCicco are making on applying for a planning grant of \$125,000 to be in full compliance with ADA. The grant should be written within the next 2-3 weeks. The grant would address short-term and long-term planning.

Item #4 Update Regarding Brookline Regional Commission on Disability Meeting – Tuesday, April 25th by David Hahesy: Mr. Hahesy attended the meeting in Brookline with about 25 others. The goals of the meeting included: collaborating with different agencies, fundraising, networking, and overall best practices of other communities.

Item #5 Update on City Events for May:

- **Special Olympics Award Ceremony:** 10 young athletes were treated to final session with the Police Department walking them in, and cheering them on. Young Athletes received certificates and prizes. All in attendance received a pizza luncheon.
- Summary of Autism Awareness Month Calendar: Jen Duggan and Enza Goodwin coordinated 22 events (17 of which were free) for children with special needs and their families. Overall an amazing success and the goal will be to offer it again next year.

- Next Steps for Our Kids Beyond Autism Awareness Month: Since children and families enjoyed the month of April so much, many have expressed a desire for a continuation of events. Jen Duggan and Enza Goodwin are trying to organize events for the upcoming summer months.
- Monday Night Playgroup and Need for Summer Location: There is a likely possibility that Drop and Stay Playgroup for children with special needs will be without location during the summer weeks. We are seeking a spot for Monday nights from 6:00-7:30pm that is enclosed, safe, and child-friendly. Please contact us 781-485-7163 if you have a spot.
- Next SEPAC Meeting on May 24th at 6:00PM at The Revere League for Special Needs: Please mark your calendar and consider attending.

Item #6 Presentation by Elle Baker from Revere on the Move Neighborhood Organizer Regarding ADA Accessibility Garden Beds at the new Gibson Park Community Gardens: Ms. Baker had a conflict and could not attend. Ms. DeMauro spoke on her behalf. Gibson Community Garden will open this season. It is located between Riverside and the Point of Pines in Ward 5. There will be 15 ground level garden beds and 3 handicap accessible beds. There will be a lottery held on 5/1/17. Please contact Ms. Baker (ebaker@revere.org) with any questions.

Item #7 Reading of Communication sent to the Traffic Commission after our April Meeting: Mr. DeCicco read the Communication. The Traffic Commission is meeting on Thursday, May 18th. It should be on the schedule and they will discuss then.

Item #8 Late Items: A 9-1-1 Disability Indicator Form for Landline Customers is available. The 911 Form can be filled out for anyone with a disability so that in the event of an emergency, emergency personnel will know how to proceed in a safe manner for all involved. The form can be found on The City of Revere's Web Site under the Disability departments FAQ's tab:

http://www.revere.org/departments/commission-on-disabilities. Mr. Mazzone suggested to Mr. Gravellese if the form could be sent out with tax and/or water bills. We are going to try and schedule someone to be at our next meeting to explain the form in more detail

Item #9 Open Forum- Resident feedback with ongoing issues: Rocco Falzone (55 Toscano Ave) discussed concerns of the sidewalk being accessible for people with disabilities because of speeding and flooding in and around the Toscano/Asti/Green tree area. He was at the April 2017 meeting and returned to see what can be done. Mr. Gravellese assured him that the Mayor is looking at all service requests, but that there is currently a 3 year back log on service requests.

Adjournment Next Meeting: June 13, 2017 at 6:00pm