



## **CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**Meeting Minutes– November 9, 2021 @ 6:00 PM**

**Ralph DeCicco - Chair    Pauline Perno - Vice Chair**

**Email: [disabilities@revere.org](mailto:disabilities@revere.org)    Phone: 781-286-8267**

**Meeting Will Be Via Zoom and on Revere TV**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/879 9134 6824](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87991346824)**

**Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099**

**Webinar ID 879 9134 6824**

### **Salute to the Flag**

**Roll Call of Members: Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Asmaa Aabou-Fouda, Mario Grimanis, Jason Barone, Enza Goodwin (via tv)**

**Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2021**

**Jason Barone / Asmaa Aabou-Fouda**

**Item #2: Updates/Next Steps from October Meeting: Letter to be sent this week; will extend invitation to attend COD next meeting. Motion to accept letter Jason/ Asmaa and Pauline second this motion**

**Item #3: SEPAC Scheduled November Events:**

**All activities for December will be added to city calendar; Asmaa will update social media/ updates will also be added onto the Disabilities web page**

**Item #4:MOD(Mass Office on Disability) Level up to equality/ apprenticeships to employment / Vocational Rehab Partners....learn a skill / get paid/ find a job->**

**Commission members discussed if this would this be helpful and appropriate to bring to RHS? Await update in December (first meeting was November 4, 2021);**

**ITEM #5:MBTA Bus Redesign Meeting talks about incorporating different routes, thus possibly requiring more frequent transfers to train stations, while possibly decreasing the number of buses, but making some buses direct- This would cause a negative impact on the disabled community. A few questions are where would transfers take place, time/safety/missed routes . These are three top issues.**

**Item #6: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance) –**

- **Issues discussed:” Cities and Towns spoke about snow removal in both public and private areas. Our Commission members mentioned that here in Revere there is a program through RHS JROTC for Seniors and disabled homeowners that live year-round on site. There is a 3–4-year waitlist**
- **CODA member mentioned that Cambridge Ma has a universally designed playground. Revere COD Member asked if can we bring this to Revere. Commission Chair DeCicco mentioned that Ambrose Park will be getting redone and will be a fully accessibly playground. More information will be coming soon. HYM Project at Suffolk Downs also has interest...this would be a shared site between Revere and East Boston; AAB (Architectural Access Board) would need to be consulted if accommodations are not being met (would need to file appropriate amendments); as Suffolk Downs is a shared site between Revere and East Boston, any building / construction would need to be addressed appropriately;**
- **There are upcoming bills in Legislature that would cover non denial of treatment , decreased times a prior authorization is needed (in the case of long term treatments and medical management) and parental disability and the role it plays in caring for children. Specific bill numbers are H1256/ H1711 s1083/HB1200 sb637**

**Item #7: City Council Public Hearing on Ordinance to Establish Regulations of Sale and Use of Sustainable Food ware and Packaging :applies to all Styrofoam/ styrene/ disposable utensils, straws....straws pose their own issues if use is prohibited, persons with disabilities (including children, adults, elderly)may need to use these not as a matter of convenience but necessity... the words ``excluding plastic straws” must be added to language**

**Item #8: Commission on Disabilities Member Vacancy : continue to accept resumes for this vacancy... interviews of prospective members to be scheduled**

**Item #9: Commission Members Late Items:**

- **How to best make meetings accessible and open to all....look at disabilities rights, best practices and municipalities obligations under ADA ; Commission members spoke on the much-needed availability to have all public meetings to be Hybrid. If there is one good thing that can be said could be said about this pandemic it would be that this can be done. This would give everyone and anyone the availability to attend and take part in any City public meeting, commission meeting, or public hearing event when they cannot attend in person. This is not only a need for our disabled residents but also for Seniors, people who are out of town, have childcares issues and language barriers. Having Hybrid meetings would allow the usage of real time translation services weather it is another language or for the hearing impaired. There can be a live ASL interpreter. We are coming upon year 2022 let’s use the technology that is**

**availably to us to the fullest and include everyone and anyone by removing barriers.**

- **Asmaa is currently offering Arabic School for children ages 4-12... current enrollment is 12... Co-Chair Perno had a thought. could special needs kids go to a class to learn their native language.... in hopes of increasing population of students, there would be a need for space that could support all student learners.**

**Item #10: Residents' concerns/issues, questions, and Open Forum: none, next meeting November 9, 2021- There were None**

**Item #11: Reminder –**

**The Commission on Disabilities due to Covid 19 and the safety of all residents is trying to limit in person appointments due to the unavailability and use at our present office location. Residents can speak to staff from our 311 Constituent Service Center Monday through Friday 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 please ask to be transferred to the Disability offices voicemail and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.**

**As always 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 speak on any issue or concern. The Commission is here to help and assist all the disabled residents and families of Revere.**

**Next Steps:**

**Motion to Adjourn: Made by Commissions Member Jason Seconded by Commission Member Mario**

**Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM**