



CITY OF REVERE - COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Meeting Notes – April 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Ralph DeCicco - Chair Pauline Perno - Vice Chair

Email: disabilities@revere.org Phone: 781-286-8267

Meeting Will Broadcast Live Via Zoom, Revere TV & Revere TV YouTube Channel

Please click the link below to join the webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88270277148>

Or Telephone: US: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID 882 7027 7148

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call of Members Present - Ralph DeCicco, Pauline Perno, Jason Barone, Mario Grimanis, Ellie Vargas

Item #1: Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from March 12th, 2024.

Made by Pauline Perno & Seconded by Jason Barone

Item #2: Introduction of New Commission on Disabilities Member- Annmarie Fiore

Item #3: Updates/Next Steps from March 12, 2024 Meeting

- **Updates from Pauline regarding calendar for future monthly guest speakers.**
- **Any Grant Update regarding Save the Harbor/Save The Bay - Better Beaches Program**

Item #4: CODA (Commissions on Disabilities Alliance)-Monthly Zoom Meeting on Wednesday April 3, 2024.

- **Melrose COD Commission Member discussed conversations she has been having with Rep Kathrine Clark's office regarding The Disability Inclusion program. This is a program that has been in existence in Newton School District for 45 years. She would like to see it not only in Melrose but also have other City and town COD help bring this to their School District. She will also be having continued conversations with Katherine Clark's Office along with the State DOE. Unfortunately, we were also told during our meeting by a Newton COD member that Newton just dropped the program, and they are very upset with this decision.**
- **DPC mentioned that they are continuing their Advocacy at the State House regarding their opposition to proposed cuts to the line item in the State Budget for PCA's.**
- **COD Commission Member mentions opportunities Regarding The Gopen Fellowship. This is a program that you can apply for through the Massachusetts Disability Council. The Gopen Fellowship is a one-year, part-time work and learning opportunity for an individual with a developmental disability. Here is the link to find more information and application process: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-gopen-fellowship>**

Item #5: SEPAC March/April Events: (Provided by Juie Brown- President of SEPAC)

- **SEPAC- Next Meeting is Thursday, May 30th, SEPAC will meet in person with a Zoom link option, agenda will come out at the beginning of May. This will be the last in-person event of the year.**
- **We are looking for any and all interested parties to join us! Either as Board Members or volunteers or overall support. Anyone interested in getting more involved in SEPAC Revere can send us an email at sepacrevere@gmail.com or call Julie Brown at 617-817-2653**
- **SEPAC also will be hosting two Free Virtual Workshop for Parents and Professionals Events Via Zoom by [The Federation for Children with Special Needs](#) with Spanish Translation available in person at Revere High School. (More information to follow)**
 - **Thursday April 25th 6-8 PM: Basic Rights: Understanding the IEPA**
For More Information, Here Is the Registration Link:
<https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ucOqqrD0rGdIUyWSMFPCWGmpK6bl-DrZJ>
 - **Wednesday May 8th: 6-8 PM Bullying: What Parents Need to Know**
For more information, Here is the Registration Link:
https://fcsn-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuduGorzMtHdRYmKzn_pdsWdISD85Ywa2D

Item #6: Commission Members Late Items/Information:

- **Commission Member Ellie Vargas discussed the “Equipment Program” and Chair Ralph DeCicco also include the Mason have equipment loan program out of Woburn called H.E.L.P (Hospital Equipment Loan Program)**
- **Commission Member Jason Barrone discussed student/new drivers: and also discussed an “AP” indicating when it is safe to cross a street. Also discussed RTAG:MBTA buses/vehicles too close to bus stops and crosswalks making visualization difficult.**

Item #7: Residents’ concerns/issues None

Item #8: Next Steps:

- **Monthly Calander Updates**
- **Grant Updates**

Item #9: Reminder –

The Commission on Disabilities office number is 781-286-8267. Residents can also call Revere 311 directly and speak to their staff Monday through Friday. They will answer most questions, but if they are unable to or if you want to speak to our department directly or schedule an appointment, please ask to be transferred to the Disability office. If we are unavailable, please leave a detailed message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

As always, please tell us if you want something discussed or 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.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Jason Barone & Seconded by Mario Grimanis

Next Meeting: (Via Zoom) will be Tuesday May 14th, 2024 at 6:00 PM