

Commission on Disabilities: Meeting Notes - February 14, 2017 – 6 PM

Members present:

Ralph DeCicco
David Haesy
Enza Goodwin

Members absent:

Paul Mazzone
Harvey Corin

Item #1 – Website updates: Co-chair Ralph DeCicco updated the Commission on updates to the Commission's webpage on revere.org. A handicap parking sign application for drivers and for passengers has been placed site, where they can be downloaded and mailed to city hall, or scanned and emailed to disabilities@revere.org.

The site now also includes FAQ about the guidelines for obtaining a handicap parking space, and links to services available statewide for persons with disabilities.

The Commission has begun responding to constituent inquiries either via phone (781-286-8267) or email (disabilities@revere.org).

Item #2 – Autistic children signage: Co-Chair David Haesy gave an update on signage warning of autistic children on certain streets. He will follow up with the traffic commission to discuss this further, but the Commission's understanding is that these signs can be installed per vote of the City Council or Mayor's office without requiring action by the Traffic Commission.

Item #3 - Veterans' Services Department collaboration: Co-Chair David Haesy discussed plans for further collaboration with the city's Veterans' Services office once a new director is in place.

Item #4 – DCR coordination: Co-Chair David Haesy updated the Commission on ongoing conversations he has had with Susan Hamilton from the DCR about handicap accessibility to Revere Beach. One potential issue with adding more handicap-accessible pathways along the beach is how it could impact the daily raking of the sand. Regardless, efforts are ongoing to ensure as much handicap accessibility to the beach as possible.

****A vote was taken by the Commission asking the Mayor's office to communicate to the DCR that residents were concerned the Handicap parking spots on Revere Beach Boulevard were not adequately cleared out during the recent snowstorm. (Unanimous)****

Item #5 (Public Feedback):

Enza Goodwin notes that this week, a successful Valentine's Day party was held for students with special needs, in conjunction with the Revere Recreation department.

In addition, the spring program for the Special Olympics will be starting next month at the Paul Revere School.

City Councilor Ira Novoselsky spoke about improving handicap accessibility at the American Legion. The current handicap ramp is wearing out and is in need of replacement. In addition, the bathrooms need upgrades to be handicap accessible.

He also suggested that RevereTV look in to closed captioning for hearing-impaired viewers.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 14, 6 PM