

**CITY OF FITCHBURG DISABILITY COMMISSION MEETING**

Date	January 11, 2017
Location	Library Garden Room

Commission Members:

Name	Present	Absent	Remote
Jeffrey Wolfgang	X		
Bill Tolos	X		
Mary Ann Guichard	X		
Sheela Tallamraju	X		
Sharon Tardiff		X	
Carolyn Quirk	X		
Kathy Hamelin	X		
Nick Carbone	X		
Doris Matte		X	

Guests: Amy LeBlanc, Carolyn Gordon from the MA Commission for the Blind, Peter Proulx, Executive Director and Benjamin Gold, Assistant Executive Director of the Housing Authority attended

**Item 1:** Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. Motion passes to accept the meeting minutes for December 2016.

**Announcements/Notices/Events:** The Disability Commission was invited by Behavioral Concepts, Inc. to an open house for their new Fitchburg Location: provides center and home based services through private health insurance. BCI is an approved provider of Specialty ABA Services for Early Intervention in Central Massachusetts. They offer Home services, Social Skills services; Center based services, after school services for children diagnosed with autism including early intervention. They have location based in Worcester and have recently opened a second location in Fitchburg. The Open House is on Tuesday-January 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm. Location is 207 Authority Drive, Fitchburg.

**Item 2:** Commission Structure: Doris Matte was approved at last city council meeting- Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 as a member of the Disability Commission.

**Item 3:** Disability Awareness Event: The commission had met for the fourth planning meeting held on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:30 AM. Location will be confirmed shortly. Save the Date to all the vendors will be sent by the end of this month.

The commission has voted unanimously to keep the disability awareness fair separate from the resource fair being held in September of every year. The Disability Awareness Event will be held every year in April.

**Item 4:** Curb Cuts -Updated list of accessibility in our city that has been completed from Spring of 2016 was sent to Jeff from Lenny. Will form a committee for Senior Center concerns. Nick to approach Mayor's office to form a committee.

**Item 5:** Housing /Wallace Towers: Peter Proulx, Executive Director and Benjamin Gold, Assistant Executive Director of the Housing Authority attended. We discussed issues at Wallace Towers in particular the façade project - short-term repairs to occur in February and longer term, larger façade project that they need to seek money for, notice to residents about the issue, concerns about the scaffolding. Also discussed Fire department lock box at Wallace towers and the annual meeting they have with residents.

**Item 6:** Education/ Subcommittee /Disability Awareness Event- continue to work on a pre-planning meeting for the Disability Awareness event. This meeting is being held on a monthly basis in the library.

**Item 7:** Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment: Report submitted for Accessible Playgrounds. Kathy reviewed signage at Coggshall (restroom accessibility). This has not been corrected.

**Item 8:** Accessible Art Project: Grant has been approved for the accessible art project. Planning will begin shortly.

Nick is helping to advertise of this event.

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The Disability Commission is hosting an accessible art project - and these projects will be showcased at our city wide disability awareness event in April of 2017

**Item 9:** Issues of Compliance in Downtown Fitchburg: Jeff has asked that commission members bring to any issues of concern to his attention.

**Item 10:** Snow Removal: Mayor's office is calling local schools- to see if they can get assistance in shoveling: A volunteer program to help with cleaning of Sidewalks, properties and driveways for any elderly or disabled individuals.

**Item 11:** Old Business: -Jeff will contact the regional director of Workers Credit Union to follow up on complaints of safe deposit box access.

**Item 12:** New Business:

-Discussion about new Complaint Form. Carolyn Gordon said if we send it to her, she will test it with JAWS software. Should have Spanish translation. Add request for email.

-Issue with meeting location this year- looking for a location.

-Light it up Blue event April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Upper common- still in initial planning phase.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the library Garden Room.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff. The meeting ended at 11:28 AM.