

## City of Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting

Date	March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2017
Location	Ethnic Heritage 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: Pauline Basque, Emily Albizu from LUK, attended as guests of the Disability Commission.

**Item 1:** Meeting commenced at 10:08 AM, no motion was made to accept the meeting minutes for February 2017, because we did not have a quorum at this meeting, It will be discussed in our next month's meeting in April.

Announcements/Notices/Events: Kathleen Dennen - Vision Support Group- invite to March Group-03/13/2017- 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. 5 Pond Street- Leominster. Please contact Kathy for more details-978-353-3064.

Special Touch Reach-New England will be hosting a Bowl-A-Thon from 11:00 AM -2:00 PM at Mason's bowling in Leominster-Please contact Kathy for donations at 978-353-3064.

New England Amputee Association will have their monthly meeting on 03/14/2017 at 6:00PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor-Clinton Hospital- Dr. Richard Waller will be the guest speaker.

Save the Date: Fitchburg Community Development Department has sent a Save the Date notification for their Community Resource Fair - Thursday- September 14, 2017 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at the Fitchburg Armory (Senior Center) located at 14 Wallace Ave, Fitchburg, MA.

**Item 2:** Trails Vision Group: 6:30-8:00 PM- Public Meeting, 03/08/2017 - Input from the Disability Commission is welcome, The Group will develop a document providing information shortly. The meeting will be held at the Fitchburg downtown fire station.

**Item 3:** Disability Awareness Event:

On February 10<sup>th</sup> Kathy approached Phil Bower from Chartwells at FSU for catering at our awareness event. They do not cater outside FSU.

Nick Carbone is working on Facebook page for the Fitchburg Disability commission and the Disability awareness event.

**Item 4:** Curb Cuts - None to Report

**Item 5:** Housing /Wallace Towers: Green Acres is going to expand its buildings and will add revolutionary park equipment to its playground.

**Item 6:** Education/ Subcommittee /Disability Awareness Event- Worked on finalizing the invite for the disability awareness event.

**Item 7:** Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment: None to Report

**Item 8:** Accessible Art Project: The accessible art project held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 was a huge success. Carolyn's report to follow on the event. Pictures of the art work have been taken. The art works will be displayed at our city wide disability awareness event in April of 2017. Our sincere gratitude to the Arc of Opportunity to host the event. The event had over 30 paintings. As a promotion for our event, some of the art work will be displayed at various locations around Fitchburg prior to the Disability Awareness Event.

**Item 9:** Issues of Compliance in Downtown Fitchburg: None to Report.

**Item 10:** Snow Removal: Nick Carbone will work with FSU Alumni for snow removal in the city.

**Item 11:** Old Business: Workers Credit Union needs follow-up

**Item 12:** New Business: Pauline Basque- addressed the disability commission with a complaint on Singapore Restaurant. The bathroom is not handicapped accessible. People with walkers cannot even enter the bathroom stall. Pauline had addressed this with the manager of Singapore restaurant, and he was not receptive to her complaint. They do not have wheel chair accessible family bathroom either. A recommendation was made for Pauline to contact the chamber of Commerce, which oversees the private sector. Hope is that they will have a training in this very important issue of diversity and accommodations, to turn it into a larger advocacy as the restaurant is a private commercial owner.

The Fitchburg Disability Commission has been informed of a complaint about the lack of wheel chair accessibility in public places in Fitchburg. His complaint has been forwarded to the Mayor's office.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Location - The Garden Room - Fitchburg Public Library.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kathy Hamelin and 2nd by Doris Matte.  
Bill Tolos adjourned the meeting at 11:31 am.