

## **Commission on Disabilities: Meeting Notes – April 11, 2017 – 6 PM**

### **Members present:**

Ralph DeCicco  
David Hahey  
Paul Mazzone  
Bryan Arciero  
Enza Goodwin  
Michelle DeBellis

### **Members absent:**

Harvey Corin

**Item #1 2 new board members were introduced:** Bryan Arciero and Michelle DeBellis. Both are life-long Revere residents eager to work with the Commission and the community.

**Item #2 Rules and policies for members:** We held a discussion about the removal of member Harvey Corin who has not made it to any of the meetings this year. Contact has been made, but he has not responded. Mr. Mazzone mentioned that Mr. Corin is not well (health-wise). We will table it until next month.

**Item #3 cars parking on sidewalks:** Federal law says cars can't park on sidewalks. Revere had designated 6 streets that can park on the sidewalk with 2 wheels. Residents have been calling the Commission and voicing their concerns and complaints. After discussion we will send a letter to traffic commission to look at the issue.

**Item #4 Family Care (AFC) program:** Mr. Taino Hatuey and Ms. Leyden presented to us about their Elder Service Agency. It is a Mass health AFC program which currently serves 225 families. It is for adults 16 and older who have a medical diagnosis and carry Mass health. The goal of the program is to keep people at home in the least restrictive environment.

**Item #5 Mystic Valley Elder Services:** Mr. O'Leary presented about this program whose mission is to help people remain independent as long as possible. This agency provides support to help the elderly. It is best known for Meals on Wheels. It is based on need, not age or income. It currently serves 1500 people at week.

**Item #6 Volunteers: We continue to seek volunteers.** If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ralph DeCicco and he will discuss opportunities.

**Item #7 update of City Events (March and April):** The Polar Plunge for Special Olympics took place on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The program raised over \$100,000 and supports our Young Athletes program. We are currently in our second session of our Young Athletes program. It is a 6 week program which serves children 2-7 years old with special needs. Monday night Drop and Stay playgroup, run by Jen Duggan and Enza Goodwin, takes place weekly at Revere Rec. Kids play safely while caregivers support each other. April is Autism Awareness month. Jen Duggan and Enza Goodwin developed a calendar with 22 events, 17 of which are free, for children with special needs, specifically autism. None of these events could be possible without the support of Mayor Arrigo's office and donations from city and state delegation, as well as donations from the community including time, space, snacks and drinks. Our next SEPAC meeting is April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Revere League for Special Needs.

**Item #8 NACCHO update:** Mr. DeCicco is gathering and tabulating data and information with help from this grant opportunity.

**Item #9 Communications:** TBD at next meeting

**Item #10 Late Items:** Mr. Haehy discussed a grant application with the possibility of up to \$250,000 to improve municipal buildings. The Commission will be working on it with Julie DeMauro.

Mr. Freni "texted" in to let us know that he will be offering through The Little Ricky Foundation a baseball outing and a soccer event.

We still have no home for the Commission.

Ellie Baker is working on the Public Garden at Gibson Park which will have Raised Garden Beds that will be ADA Accessible. More information to follow

**Item #11 Public Comment/Open Forums:** A Revere resident and parent of a young adult with special needs spoke about the need for more offerings for older

children/young adults in the community. She also mentioned extending the time at crosswalks.

Rocco Falzone (55 Toscano Ave) discussed concerns of the sidewalk being accessible for people with disabilities because of speeding and flooding in and around the Toscano/Asti/Green tree area.

**Adjournment Next Meeting:** May 9, 2017 at 6:00pm