

## CITY OF FITCHBURG DISABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

Date	December 14, 2016
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		

Guests: Amy LeBlanc & Doris Matte attended as guests of the Disability Commission.

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

### Announcements/Notices/Events:

- Massachusetts Office on Disability will be hosting a conference call for members of local commissions on Disability. The conference call will take place on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 11:00 AM - 12:00PM. You will hear from David D’Arcangelo, Director, Massachusetts office on Disability (MOD) regarding recent updates that will affect commissions and persons with disabilities. To call in please dial (712) 770-4010. To connect to the conference call- please enter the access code: 732-474, followed by the #button. When entering the session, all callers will be muted.
  
- Mayor DiNatale has requested the members of the disability commission attend a meeting on Tuesday - December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 10:00 AM in the Ethnic Heritage Room of the Fitchburg Public Library, to assist in the development of a complete Streets prioritization plan for Fitchburg. It is a program designed to guide future street improvements to benefit all users of city streets, including vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and mass transits.
  
- Cable Accessibility Forum: Friday December 16, 2016 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Transportation Board Room - 10 Park Plaza, Mezzanine, Boston, MA. 02116. Please call Andrea Nixon at 617-305-3580. The forum is designed to educate stakeholders in the accessibility community about new user interfaces, video programming guides and menus and other features that will be available as the FCC rules go into effect on December 20, 2016.

**Item 2:** Commission Structure: Doris Matte will be meeting the committee on Appointments of the Fitchburg City Council on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 6:45 PM in the memorial middle school library to review her re-appointment as a member of the Disability Commission which has been submitted by the mayor's office for confirmation by the council.

**Item 3:** Disability Awareness Event: The commission had met for the second planning meeting held on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 11:30 AM. Date has been finalized for our second citywide disability awareness event. April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - 4:00 PM- 7:00 PM - Location will be confirmed shortly. Save the Date to all the vendors will be sent by the end of this month.

**Item 4:** Curb Cuts - Jeff talked to Lenny. Lenny wants to do a joint CDBG grant. If there are any intersections, near schools, ramps, senior center that have accessibility issues- please let Jeff know. He will report them to Lenny. Updated list of accessibility in our city that has been completed from Spring of 2016 was sent to Jeff from Lenny. Jeff will forward the email of the completed list to the commission members.

**Item 5:** Housing /Wallace Towers: The scaffolding has been there at the front of the building since spring of 2016 that leaks through the front door and is rusted. Nick will follow up with the Wallace towers administration. Jeff will address this issue with Peter Proulx director of Fitchburg Housing authority. Jeff is planning on inviting the general counsel for the director of Fitchburg Housing authority to our next commission meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>2017. It is an accessibility issue, water dripping, ice not treated

**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. A complaint was received to the Disability Commission from a parent from the Fitchburg Public Schools about a violation of her child's IEP. We do not know the details of the parent's complaint. Carolyn will send a notification of the complaint to the director of special education for Fitchburg Public Schools.

**Item 7:** Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment: Accessibility signage needs to be updated at Cogs hall park for women's restroom. Amy contacted the DPW regarding this matter. Ms. Hamelin offered to review the site prior to the next meeting to find out if this issue has been corrected.

**Item 8:** Accesible Art Project: By January 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 Carolyn will know the status of the grant applied. 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 indicated that commission members bring to his attention of any concerns.

**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:** New Business:

A Brief discussion on grants that might be beneficial for the disability commission was held.

Jeff will contact the to the District Manager of Workers Credit Union to follow up on complaints related to accessibility of safety deposit boxes at their downtown Fitchburg location.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for January 11<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