

# Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL PLACE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201  
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Minutes for Monday February 27, 2017

9<sup>th</sup> Floor BRA Board Room 900, Boston City Hall, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

KRISTEN MCCOSH  
*Commissioner*

## Commission Members

Heather Watkins  
*Chairperson*

Allegra Stout  
*Vice Chairperson*

John Winske  
*Secretary*

Marc (Moses) Mallard  
*Treasurer*

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

Present:	Staff Present:
(CR) Carl Richardson (KC) Kimyatta Campbell (KR) Kyle Robidoux  On Phone: (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (JW) John Winske  Not Present: (MM) Marc (Moses) Mallard	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (JD) Jessica Doonan (PM) Patricia Mendez
Guests: Melissa Schrock, Boston Properties	

**May & January meeting minutes:** Kyle Robidoux made a motion to approve the May 2016 and the January 2017 minutes which was seconded by Zary Amirhosseini and approved by all.

### **Guest speaker: Boston Properties**

Melissa Schrock and her associate from Boston Properties presented on the Back Bay South End Gateway project. The project is a large mixed use development in and around the Back Bay MBTA and Amtrak station. There are four components to the development: One combined retail and office space, two residential buildings and an additional separate retail area. Advisory Board members asked questions regarding ease of mobility in the area and affordable housing. One concern raised was whether the affordable and accessible housing associated with the development would be within the development or separate.

### **Architecture Report:** Patricia Mendez

Patricia Mendez opened her report noting that over the past month she has presented at the Boston Society of Landscape architects and the Boston Society of Architects Access Committee. She also Participated in South Station road safety audit which involved examination data of crashes in the area and a walk through of the space for potential hazards. PM then noted that monthly she attends the Access Advisory Committee for the MBTA listening to concerns of constituents regarding such as issues with the call center and The Ride.

PM then spoke about a few projects coming up through the Boston Planning and Development Agency and the Public Improvement Commission such as improved access to the Boston University Castle building. She provided a short update on the City Hall lobby renovation occurring currently and the City Council Chamber renovations scheduled to occur this summer. As per Carl Richardson's (CR) request special attention will be paid to the T-loop system in the Council Chamber.

Lastly, there will be an Go Boston 2030 press event on March 7<sup>th</sup> which is listed on the architectural access Google calendar with Commissioner Kristen McCosh (KMC) will share. This calendar will have relevant deadlines and information related to architectural access projects in the City of Boston.

### **Commissioner's Report: Kristen McCosh**

Kristen McCosh (KMC) opened by providing updates to work that the Commission has been doing. KMC provided the history of the Disability Housing Task Force and noted that a list of policy recommendations have been created and a press conference announcing these policies will be on either March 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. One recommendation is to increase the number of built-out units in City funded housing projects from 5% to 10%, 8% of which will be built out for physical accessibility and 2% will be for auditory disabilities. It will also be required instead of suggested that some of these units be affordable. The task force has also created an interdepartmental guide which outlines resources for looking for accessible housing. The last recommendation is related to supporting people who have recently acquired housing to keep their housing such as those who were recently incarcerated or struggle with mental illness.

KMC then informed the Board of some upcoming events. The annual spring Community Forum will take place on Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at Suffolk Law School. The annual ADA Day Celebration will take place on Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm. Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> is the Annual Disability Day of Mourning organized by the autism self-advocacy network to honor those people with disabilities who have been killed by their family or loved ones.

Lastly, KMC laid out the timeline for Board changes including the filling of 7 seats to bring the total to 13. It is hoped that new Board appointments will occur in the next month or two and KMC is working closely with Health and Human Services to ensure that it is a diverse group representing different backgrounds, disabilities, and skill sets.

### **Chief of Staff Report: Jessica Doonan**

Jessica Doonan (JD) noted to the Board that this month the Patriot's Super Bowl Championship Parade with two accessible viewing areas (Copley and Government Center) that were very successful despite terrible weather. Due to the snowy month, the City held multiple snow press conferences which all had American Sign Language interpreters present. On March 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Allston Brighton Open House at Jackson Mann Community Center in which representatives from almost every department in the City will be in attendance. One ASL Tax Day has occurred so far this tax season and the last two will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at DEAF Inc. and April 1<sup>st</sup> at Urban Edge. Three events coming up are Deaf Day on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Blind Day on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and DeafBlind Day on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

KMC added that on May 10<sup>th</sup> 11-4 there will be a Diversity Job Fair at the Wyndham in Beacon Hill that KMC will give opening remarks at with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. She also informed the board that this spring the City will have 44 A-Rated wheelchair accessible vehicles in the cab fleet up from one four years ago. Finally, KMC asked for volunteers to be in a poll accessibility ambassador training video and to also keep an eye out for the City census.

### **Old Business**

No old business

### **Old Action Items**

No Old Action Items

### **New Business**

No New Business

### **New Action Item:**

Carl made a motion to write to Boston Properties to encourage accessible and affordable units on site. Seconded by Kyle and unanimously approved.

### **Public Input**

No public input

Kyle Robidoux made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Kimyatta Campbell and approved by all present.