



# Boston Disability Commission Advisory Board

BOSTON CITY HALL | ONE CITY HALL PLACE | 9th FLOOR | ROOM 967 | BOSTON MA, 02201  
617.635.3682 | fax 617.635.2726 | TTY 617.635.2541 | [www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions](http://www.cityofboston.gov/boardsandcommissions)

Minutes for Thursday, October 29, 2015  
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

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Staff Present:</b>
(AS) Allegra Stout (ZA) Zary Amirhosseini (MM) Marc (Moses) Mallard (CR) Carl Richardson (HW) Heather Watkins (JW) John Winske (KR) Kyle Robidoux	(KMC) Kristen McCosh, Commissioner (KQ) Kathryn Quigley (CM) Chris Morawski (CS) Chanel Smitherman
Not Present: (KC) Kimyatta Campbell	
<b>Guests:</b> Karin Goodfellow, Director of Boston Arts Commission Daniel Tewfik, Boston Redevelopment Authority	

### **September Meeting Minutes:**

Carl Richardson (CR) motioned to accept September minutes, Kyle Robidoux (KR) seconded motion. Minutes approved by Board

### **Chair Report: Heather Watkins**

Heather Watkins noted that the Disability Policy Consortium Annual Meeting was well attended, diverse, and an overall great event. Congratulations again to Allegra Stout for receiving an award and to John Winske for putting on such a great event.

### **Commissioner Report: Kristen McCosh**

KMC opened her report introducing Chanel Smitherman (CS), the newest hire and Architecture Access Project Coordinator in the office. She will be working closely with Kathryn Quigley (KQ) preparing project remarks pertaining to the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Public Improvement Commission as well as many other projects. KMC then announced that Kathryn Quigley will be leaving the office as of November 5<sup>th</sup>.

KMC provided an update on Disability Mentoring Day which was held two weeks prior. While still a partnership with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), seven job-ready participants were sent to Logan Airport for an all-day event with JetBlue. Participants spent the day doing job shadowing, resume review and mock interviews. Overall it was a successful event and private partnerships such as this will be considered for future mentoring days. Related to employment, KMC continues to work with the administration to make the City of Boston a model employer for people with disabilities and recently met with the new Commissioner from MRC Nicky Osborne to discuss vocation opportunities.

KMC and KQ continue to monitor the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) fleet of cabs with the goal still of all 100 fully ADA compliant by 2017. Last week KMC and KQ met with the radio association owners and the owners of WAV medallions to provide updates and answer questions regarding the transition plan. There has been some pushback but KMC noted that there will be extensive marketing work done once all are complaint so that the disability community know that the cabs are there and available for them.

The radio association is working with KMC and KQ to work out best practices on how to ensure that the WAVs are being used in the best way possible.

Disability Housing task Force met last month as a big group and decided to split into three smaller subgroups before the final meeting. The three subgroups will focus on: housing resources, developing new housing, and info dissemination on how to get units. The final meeting will collect all of the action steps created and will make recommendations to the Mayor before the end of the year.

KMC will also be reviewing accessible parking program once the Inspector General's report on parking abuse comes out. KMC will compile the thoughts from the subcommittee as well as the Inspector General and will compose recommendations to Mayor Walsh. KMC also sat down with Liberty Mutual Foundation and discussed nonprofits that may be good fits for the grants Liberty Mutual is looking to give out specifically related to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Both Boston Center for Independent Living, Deaf Inc. and the Multicultural Independent Living Center were suggested as agencies to reach out to. The request for proposals should be out in November.

### **Architectural Report: Kathryn Quigley**

KQ announced that she will be leaving the office to go work on system wide accessibility for the MBTA. During this transition Chanel Smitherman (CS) will take over processing and reviewing projects. She will be working on specific projects as oppose to systematic change which KQ has been doing the past few years. CS will be reaching out to the Board to get opinions on projects as well as updating a calendar for the board to access that consists of deadlines for project comments. KQ notes she has been pushing for accessibility to be the equivalent of being an ecofriendly building in the eyes of developers and encourages the Board to use your voice to comment on projects whenever possible. KMC noted CS will be simplifying the architectural language for the Board so it is more easily accessible for comment. As a commission

KQ provided an update on Boston Accessible; a proof of concept wayfinding app the City has developed to allow residents and visitors to map out the most accessible routes in Boston. The proof of concept has been made and now four students at Brandeis are working on the data collection mechanism so that the data needed can continually be collected and uploaded to Google Maps. The goal is then to bring the data as well as a list of interested cities to Google in hopes that they will incorporate the information into Google maps. When KQ leaves Chris Osgood, Boston Chief of Streets will be continuing the project. This project could be extremely beneficial for constituents who will be able to navigate the city aware of barriers but it will also allow for City departments to figure out priorities in regards to removing barriers.

There are two architectural planning studies that are occurring through the Boston Redevelopment Authority and will involve public discussion. One project is for South Boston regarding Dorchester Ave which had one public meeting in September. The second is for Jamaica Plain and Roxbury and the next meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at English High. KQ noted that this is a great opportunity to have a strong voice in regards to accessibility and encouraging developers to design for all. The sooner developers hear from constituents in regards to their concerns, the more amicable they are to incorporate it. Commonwealth Ave is also undergoing a major reconstruction and Jessica Doonan will send out and meeting notices regarding community meetings.

John Winske inquired as to circumstances in which buildings are being power washed and the sidewalk is fully roped off and blocked. KQ explained that that is something Code Enforcement under the Public Works Department can look into and investigate. KQ will investigate what the policy is specifically pertaining to power washing. Construction projects are required to provide a safe accessible route and Public Works Department is very efficient at investigating the issue. Accessible Parking spaces must also be relocated if construction projects take up the spaces.

KQ provided an update on Vision Zero, the Cities initiative to strive for zero pedestrian deaths. The City is looking at the top ten intersections where fatalities have occurred and what infrastructure or policy changes can be made to make those intersections safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. JW noted related to intersections that there are an increasing number of apex curb cuts. KQ asked the Board to provide specific intersections in which the apex curb cuts are being used. KMC will email out info to the board regarding an event for Go Boston 2030.

### **Guest Presentation: MBTA Art**

Karin Goodfellow from the Boston Arts Commission and Daniel Tewfik from the Boston Redevelopment Authority presented on a

possible audio installation in partnership with the MBTA. Specifically the project is looking at changing the sounds of the turnstiles to a more melodic tone so that the environment would be friendlier and less stressful. Karin is reaching out to the Board in hopes of working together moving forward to look at the sound options. Zary Amirhosseini (ZA) suggested reaching out to individuals with sensory sensitivity and CR suggested working with blind users so that the sounds are not confusing to other existing sounds used for wayfinding. JW suggested that the sounds be system wide so as not to be confused between stations. JD will send the board contact info to Karin Goodfellow to continue this process.

**Old Business**

JW made a motion to approve the letter supporting Senate Bill 1323 which CR seconded and was unanimously approved by all.

**Old Action Items**

No Old Action Items.

**New Business**

No New Business

**New Action Items**

JW inquired about staffing changes and KMC noted the architectural access job as well as the other open positions will be posted soon so that the time gap will be as short as possible. KQ assured the Board that steps have been put in place to make the transition smooth. KMC will also be reaching out to the resumes she has on file for the open Advisory Board seats.

**Public Input**

No public input

CR made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by JW and unanimously approved by all present.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.



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KRISTEN MCCOSH  
 Commissioner

## DISABILITY COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Boston City Hall, Room 900, 9th Floor

Thursday October 29, 2015

5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Commission Members

Heather Watkins  
 Chair

Allegra Stout  
 Vice Chair

John Winske  
 Secretary

Marc (Moses) Mallard  
 Treasurer

Zary Amirhosseini

Kimyatta Campbell

Carl Richardson

Kyle Robidoux

## REVISED AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Chair's Report – *Heather Watkins*
- Commissioner's Report – *Kristen McCosh*
- Architectural Access Update – *Kathryn Quigley*
- Old Business – *House Bill 1012 and Senate Bill 1323*
- Old Action Items
- New Business – *VSA: MBTA Turnstiles*
- New Action Items
- Public Input
- Adjournment

**Next meeting: November 19, 5:30-7:30pm**

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Participant Code: 4074173#