

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2013

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, John Thompson, Susan James, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Mike Rademacher

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4:10 pm

1. Meeting minutes from 1/16/13 reviewed and accepted

February Updates: (thank you Jack)

a. Media

- a. "Arlington High School Lacks Handicapped Accessibility", Arlington Patch 2/20/13
- b. "Selectmen consider Parking Changes Near Regent Theatre", Arlington Advocate
- c. "Bricks and more Bricks", Arlington Advocate 1/31/13

b. Local Issues

- a. Mass ave project hearing
- b. Snow and Ice committee
- c. Transportation Advisory Committee
- d. 2013 Warrant Articles- Draft Available
- e. Town Election 4/6/13
- f. Maureen was reappointed

c. State issues

- a. Medical marijuana law

d. National Issues

- a. Athletic participation ruling

e. Commission projects

- a. Web site management & Redesign
- b. "walk and roll"

f. Community Feedback & complaints

- a. Lisa Klaczyk – handicap parking in Arlington Center

2. Diversity Career Fair 4/10/13

- 5th annual Job Fair
- Greg Ames (Mass Rehab- Placement Coordinator) reports to commission
- Contact info: Gregory.ames@mrc.state.ma.us, (617) 776-2662

- Every year the job fair has been grown, last year approximately 300 people attended with 25-30 employers
- This year event will take place on April 10th from 11-2
- Currently 15 employers have signed up including retail, federal, temp agencies (will max out at 30 employers)
- Agencies such as Mass Rehab, Metro North Collaborative, Triangle and Vinfen will be inviting clients to attend the event
- Asking for volunteers to assist the day of the event with registration and food and beverage
- Employers are rewarded with tax credits for hiring employees with disabilities
- 18 jobs were offered last year (5% offers at a job fair is national norm)
- Career Stop in Cambridge, Woburn, Boston helpful with placing individuals with disabilities in jobs that are appropriate

3. Forum Event for People with Psychiatric Disabilities Scheduled 5/9/13

- Career forum offered to youth with disabilities, believe may be targeting ages 18-22, Keri to clarify with Greg
- Event will take place from 10-2
- Will be looking for larger space than that currently reserved
- Focus on what expectations are in the workplace
- 4-5 employers will speak about what characteristics they look for in employees and what standard employer expectations are
- Workshops: resume writing, soft skills (how to relate to people), appropriate behavior in workplace, summer programs
- Accommodations- advocacy to employer regarding reasonable accommodations for employees

4. Curb Cut Ramp Project

- CDBG requests due today 2/20/13
- Request submitted for \$150,000- would be available after July 1 if approved
- \$138,000 left over from last year, due to back log in work
- Money is release in the summer and by the time contracts are finalized there is minimal time for work to be completed
- Engineering department puts job out to bid to contractors, lowest bid is selected
- Work is scheduled to resume with same contractor from last year using the \$138,000 monies from last year
- Question regarding curb cuts being rolled into the town's capital budget
- *Will follow up with Mike regarding the town budget*

5. Town Website

- Trying to get in contact with Joan Roman, unavailable to attend one of our meetings
- Christine Connolly (Director of Human Services) will be helping Peter S. (disability office) to meet with Christine to work on website
- Our minutes have not been posted on Website for years, will work to get this specifically corrected

- Initial step to improving website: update and put correct info up on website
- May look to develop a subcommittee, may have Christine attend a meeting
- Commission would still like to meet with Joan Roman to have a strategic planning meeting for changes to our page
- *Jack to follow up on process for making changes to website. Do we need specific approvals from Christine or other town official? Be sure to follow rules regarding what Commissions can/can't post on website.*

6. Annual Town Report Submission

- Distributed at last meeting

7. Other Business

- a. Snow
 - a. Letter in Advocate in 2008 from commission
 - b. Snow and ice committee- will look to team up with this committee
 - c. Point person on our commission to be involved with snow committee
 - d. *Maureen and Molly to discuss further list of public service announcements (town email list-serves)*
- b. Future of w/c parking in Arlington
 - a. Regent Theater
 - b. Capitol theater
- c. Mass Ave project
 - a. Next Tuesday 7 pm, Town Hall auditorium

Meeting adjourned 6:05 pm

Next Meeting set March 20, 2013