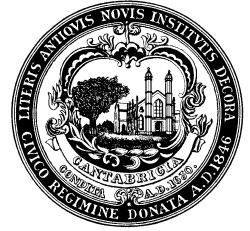


City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



Elizabeth Dean-Clower
Chair

The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.

JoAnn Haas
Secretary

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones before the meeting begins. Thank you.

NOTE: CCPD meetings are audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

Miriam Cooper
Sandy Durmaskin
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Alissa Land
Bet MacArthur
Naomi Pinson
Kathy Watkins
Dave Wood

Michael Muehe
Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

Oscar Anderson
Joanna Berton Martinez
Pro Bono Associates

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| 2. Approval of Minutes for February 14 | 2 min. | |
| 3. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / board |
| 4. Guest Speaker: Mariah Freark
<i>Cambridge Human Rights Commission</i> | 15 min. | |
| 5. Chair's Report
<i>Updates: Nominations & Elections</i>
<i>Inclusiveness of CCPD Events</i> | 15 min. | Elizabeth Dean-Clower |
| 6. Disability Reframed Film Series | 5 min. | Bet MacArthur |
| 7. Police Community Liaison Update
<i>Update on Enforcement of Bicycle Traffic Regulations</i> | 10 min. | Chris Burke |
| 8. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Kathy Watkins |
| 9. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues | 5 min. | JoAnn Haas |
| 10. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Michael Muehe |
| 11. Project Coordinator's Report | 5 min. | Kate Thurman |
| 12. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| 13. Old Business | 2 min. | |
| 14. New Business | 2 min. | |

This is a scent-free meeting. In consideration of individuals with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from wearing perfume, after-shave or any other scented products to our meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cambridge, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.



Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Minutes for Thursday, March 14, 2013

51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:38pm

Present:

Members: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, JoAnn Haas, Bet MacArthur, and Naomi Pinson, Kathy Watkins, and Dave Wood.

Alternate: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Sandy Durmaskin, Alissa Land, and Nicole Horton-Stimpson.

Guests: Superintendent Christopher Burke, Cambridge Police Department; Mariah Freark, Cambridge Human Rights Commission; Susan Manning, Cambridge Resident; and Juliana McLeod, Northeastern University.

Documents Used:

- Agenda for March 14, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from February 14, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Kendall Square Construction Update (www.cambridgema.gov/theworks)
- Cambridge Human Rights Commission PowerPoint Presentation
- Cambridge Human Rights Commission Fiscal Year 2012 Case Analysis

Minutes: A motion to approve the February 14, 2013 minutes was seconded and passed.

Guest Speaker: Mariah Freark, Attorney Investigator for the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (CHRC), provided an overview of the Commission's work. CHRC investigates complaints of discrimination based on a protected class that occur in Cambridge --in housing, employment, education and places that are open to the public. CHRC enforces the Cambridge Fair Housing Ordinance and the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance, which includes the following as protected classes: gender, sexual orientation, sex, family status, race/color, military status, disability, source of income, age, and national origin. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination in order to be considered for investigation by CHRC. For more information, see www.cambridgema.gov/hrc or call 617-349-4396.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth Dean-Clower reminded those in attendance that the deadline for applying for current CCPD Board vacancies is March 29, although it is possible that the application period will be extended. She, JoAnn Haas and Miriam Cooper volunteered to be on the interview panel.

Ms. Dean-Clower also reminded members that nominations for officer positions begin at the April meeting and that elections will take place at the May meeting.

She then opened a discussion on inclusiveness of CCPD events, asking members if there are situations in which CCPD is sponsoring events where there are any inadvertent barriers for some people with certain types of disabilities. For example, she noted that the last Disability Reframed Community Film Series screening (*Benda Bilili!*) was in two foreign languages with English open captions, meaning that audio description (i.e., English narration of the scenes as well as reading of the open captioning) would be necessary to provide access to individuals who are blind or partially sighted. Some other films, such as small

independent documentaries, have lacked closed captioning, creating a barrier for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Kate Thurman noted that all publicity of the Film Series and other CCPD events include information on who to contact to request reasonable accommodations, such as sign language interpreters, live audio description, communication realtime translation (CART), etc.

Bet MacArthur stated that many independent documentaries are done by small filmmakers with very limited funding, so these films often lack accessibility features such as closed captioning, which raises the question of whether CCPD should avoid screening these films, which has the effect of essentially silencing the stories of the often disenfranchised people in them.

It was decided to table this discussion due to time constraints.

Disability Reframed: Bet MacArthur reported that the next film, *Mary and Max*, will be screened on Saturday, April 27 from 2-5pm at the Cambridge Citywide Senior Center.

Police Community Liaison Update: Superintendent Chris Burke reported meeting with CPD's traffic enforcement officer about bicycle violations. He states that 763 citations were issued to cyclists in 2011 for traffic violations and that 57% of those citations were warnings and 42% were fines. They focused a lot that year on educating cyclists about adhering to traffic laws.

726 citations were issued in 2012 for bicycle violations, with 5.7% being warnings and 94% being fines, indicating an increased focus on enforcement of traffic laws.

Superintendent Burke reported working with the traffic enforcement officer to put together a plan to address bicycle violations. The first location where they plan to increase education and enforcement is the intersection of Mass Ave and Rindge Ave in North Cambridge. CPD will locate two electronic sign boards in that location, displaying messages reminding cyclists to follow traffic rules. Their goal is to take a high visibility approach because that educates people. After the sign boards have been out for at least two weeks, CPD will use bicycle officers and seasonal officers to focus on enforcement, particularly at rush hour.

Superintendent Burke emphasized that the goal is pedestrian and bicycle safety. He and Sergeant Kathy Murphy will meet with the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee and will also reach out to the Belmont, Somerville, and Arlington bicycle communities to inform them of the plan for increased enforcement. CPD is seeking a high degree of voluntary compliance with traffic laws by cyclists.

Public Works Update: Kathy Watkins reported attending the Kendall Sq. Business Association's meeting last week, and stated that there is a lot of construction coming up in Kendall Square. For more information, see www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects.

Sidewalk Update: JoAnn Haas reported noticing that snow removal has been significantly better this winter. She asked Kathy Watkins for a list of DPW's priority snow removal corners so she can determine whether or not any of them are near elderly housing developments, noting that that may be an area for future focus.

Michael Muehe will check with Sue Clippinger, Director of the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Dept., about posting the updated bicycle parking regulations online.

Executive Director's Report: Michael Muehe reported that he has a conflict with our September 12 CCPD meeting. Members agreed to move the meeting to September 19.

He said that Central Square Theater has connected with CCPD about a play in May called *Distracted*, which is about children and youth with ADD as the primary theme. The Theater is looking for people with personal experience with ADD who may be interested in participating on a Connectivity Council. Bet MacArthur expressed an interest.

Mr. Muehe reported that the Cambridge in Motion pilot travel training is launching in April. The training will help people with disabilities learn how to navigate the MBTA buses and subways.

Lastly, Mr. Muehe announced that an attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services is interested in reaching out to persons with disabilities about any difficulty accessing medical services in Cambridge.

Project Coordinator's Report: Kate Thurman reported receiving a phone call from a gentleman in Human Resources at Fenway Health in Boston. They are trying to recruit people with disabilities to apply for their open positions, and are eager to collaborate with us in any way possible to reach the disability community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator