



City of New Bedford Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Minutes Commission for Citizens with Disabilities October 14, 2021

Members Present In Person

Esperanza Alejandro-Berube
Kim Bettencourt
Pam Cole
Dennis DeMarinis, Jr.
Linda Haskins

Members Present Remotely

George Smith

Members Excused

Marsha Fernandes

Others in Attendance

B. G. Shanklin, Architect
Cynthia Wallquist, Executive Director

Members Absent

Audra DePina

Welcome

Dennis DeMarinis, Jr., Chair, called the meeting to order @ 6:00 PM.

Roll Call Attendance

Minutes

Kim Bettencourt moved to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting. George Smith seconded. Roll Call vote. All in favor. (Note: there was no meeting in September; therefore last minutes were June).

Ratification of Proxies: FY22-1, FY22-2, FY22-3

George Smith moved to ratify all proxies (copies attached). Esperanza Alejandro-Berube seconded. Roll Call vote. All in favor.

Vacancy

John Lobo's name/appointment was sent to the Appointments and Briefings Committee 2 weeks ago. No meeting date has been set yet.

Chairperson's Report

Dennis DeMarinis had nothing to report this month

Executive Director's Report

Cynthia Wallquist reviewed the projects funded to date for this fiscal year:

- Architectural Services
- Clear Path
- Special Needs Exercise

Esperanza moved to accept the Executive Director's report; George seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Architect's Report

Architect BG Shanklin reported updates on the following:

- Alma Del Mar variance; new campus on Church St.
- 130 Arnold St deli; applied for variance but nothing yet
- Buttonwood warming house; no occupancy certificate yet as there are still issues with the bathrooms
- Café Italia signage is still not located correctly; George Smith suggested contacting the Building Department
- City Hall signage still needs to be posted at the foot of City Hall steps indicating that the accessible entrance is on Sixth Street
- City Hall doorbell and door repair complete
- City sidewalks adjacent to Walgreens are being redesigned by DPI – no installation date set yet
- First Congregational Church (Lund's Corner); consulting on renovation of 1st floor space
- 90 Hatch St. Studios can't get occupancy but will continue to work to meet code
- Hillman St. ramp COA; need 2 ramps for both doors to entrances as the front entrance is not accessible and the accessible door is located in an active driveway too far from handicapped parking space
- PAACA signage needs to be removed/not needed because correct signage is there
- W. Beach Pavilion: no update on grant for redesign; BG still waiting for the actual design
- Parks and Recreation Braille signage project creating uniform signage at all park locations was supported by the Commission
- Temple Landing expansion is under review by several departments; The Chair will be submitting on behalf of the Commission (needs handicapped parking and curb cuts)
- St. Anthony's Church requested a variance that is not needed as a newly installed "lift" satisfied all requirements
- NBHS: providing assistance re: 2 bathrooms adjacent to the auditorium

Kim Bettencourt moved to accept the Architect's Report; Pam Cole seconded. Roll Call vote. All in favor.

New Business

- The Commission received a complaint from a Tripp Towers residents stating that the accessible bathrooms in the common areas have been closed. The commission will forward the complaint to the NBHA for comment.
- George Smith reported that he "attended" the ARPA public hearing and spoke on the need to:
 - Address ADA issue on City properties
 - Construct a Senior Center that includes space for exercise, wellness programs and multi-purpose rooms
 - Expand broadband access
 - Create senior housing
 - Address Age-Friendly priorities
- George volunteered to tour City sites in his motorized wheelchair with the Mayor to show the issues facing residents who have mobility issues.

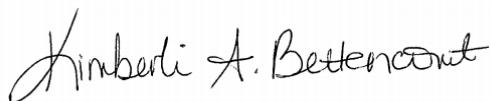
Old Business

- Pam Cole provided a brief summary of the VAX team activities that have taken place since June

Adjourn

Esperanza moved to adjourn at 7:30 PM; George seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberli A. Bettencourt
Clerk

PROXY 2022-1

As a member of The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, I vote to take the action as indicated below that authorizes the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Blair (BG) Shanklin for architectural reviews and services in an amount of \$17,000.00.

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove
- ☐ Abstain

PROXY 2022-2

As a member of The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, I vote to take the action as indicated below that authorizes the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Larry Bigos d/b/a Health N Motion to provide instruction for students with special needs in an amount not to exceed \$2000.00.

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove
- ☐ Abstain

PROXY 2022-3

As a member of The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities, I vote to take the action as indicated below that authorizes the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with KAP Transportation in an amount of \$5000.00 to provide snow removal services for homeowners with disabilities.

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove
- ☐ Abstain