**City of Fall River**

#### Massachusetts

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY**



**Paul e. Coogan**

***Mayor***

 **Dennis Polselli**

Chairman

**Debbie Pacheco**

Vice-Chairwoman

**Minutes of the Fall River Commission on Disability**

**Conference Call Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 09, 2021**

**3:30 PM**

Chairman Dennis Polselli called the meeting to order at 3:37pm

1. Chairman Dennis Polselli opened the meeting by reading the Open Meeting Law statement.
2. **Members Present:** Chairman Dennis Polselli; Commissioner Daniel Robillard; Commissioner Lisa Silva ;Commissioner Ann O’Neil-Sousa

**Others Present:** Sandy Berube Health Department Clerk

**Members Absent:** Vice Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco Attorney Gary Howayeck ESQ, ADA Coordinator

1. **Public Input:** No public input.
2. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, November 10 2021**

Motion made by Commissioner Daniel Robillard to accept the minutes from the Commission on Disability meeting from Wednesday, November 10th, 2021

Second: Commissioner Ann O’Neil-Sousa

All in favor; none opposed; abstentions; 1

1. **Guest: Samuel Mauck and the rolling out of our new website**

Dennis Polselli introduces Samuel Mauck. We had been working sometime and the website that is now up and open to the public.

Samuel Mauck explains how the website is up and live and reachable through <http://www.frcod.org> or <http://www.fallrivercod.org> if anyone has a computer on hand and would like to can check on it. You’ll find that it is up and running with all the commission meetings that are available on Youtube. Recent agendas and minute of past meetings are all available on pdf versions so people can download to view. We also have a section for news and events, which we can keep the public up to date on your most recent community activities. Right now we have the Disability Day and the Scholarship lunch that is up with photos from those events. We also have our resources page which has all the available resources and proposals that the commission has discussed as well as empty out resources and a directory of all the Massachusetts Disability Agencies. Finally, a contact page where people can fill out the form to get in contact with the Commission. Those emails being sent directly to Dennis, Danny and Lisa.

Dennis explains that we decided to have the emails sent directly to the outreach work group but we will definitely if we need any assistance we can always share that to the rest of the commission or if anyone else wanted to be added to it but he thinks that for now we should just start with the Outreach Work Group.

Samuel says going forward if anybody has input about the website they can feel free to contact him and he will make his email address available if there is anything missing whether its pictures or events that you want to have highlighted please feel free to email them to me and Samuel will put them up on the website as well as any new Agendas and Minutes. He does ask for 48hrs of turnover time before you send the emails for when you expect it up on the website because it allows him to move his schedule around to make sure that he can get to a computer.

Dennis explains that from this meeting on no minutes will go on the website until it’s been approved by the Commission. The first approved minutes from the meeting from here on in minutes of the meeting will not go on the website until they’ve been approved. So today the approval of the minutes of November 10th that will go on, he’ll be sending that to Sam right after we adjourn. Dennis will also notify Dawn Lewis that we are officially up and running. No passwords are needed, no usernames that was just for commission purposes only to check it out before it was officially made public. Officially it is made public as of right now. So he will let Dawn Lewis know. She’s already indicated that she will definitely put a link on the city website to the commission. Agendas will continue in accordance will the open meeting laws the agendas will continue to be posted on the city website they will also be on the commission website of course but they will also be on the city website as part of the public open meeting public posting rules. He will also let some organizations know if it’s ok with the commission. Dennis will also let the herald news know that we now have a commission website and at the end of each meeting that is broadcasted on Frgtv there will be the website address at the bottom of the screen.

1. **Work Group Updates**
2. ADA Updates: No updates at this time
3. Policies: No updates at this time
4. Finance: Will be available through the quarterly budget reports that we get
5. Outreach: Update on Scholarship Program from 2022

Dennis explains that we’ve begun working on the scholarship. Daniel has been checking into the menu, and we think where going to keep it the same as last year which will be baked chicken mashed potatoes and corn, with cake and decorations. The date is June 4th and we should be ready. Dennis will be reaching out to the principals and this year we will be adding charter schools. So probably March or the latest April to decide on a scholarship amount for next year. Last year we gave out 10 $3000 scholarships. 5 for Durfee 3 for Diman and 2 for Bishop Connelly and they were 3000 each and this year we will be adding the 2 charter schools Atlantis and Argosy. Both of which are very enthusiast about this. The rules will be the same as last year the determination will be made by the schools. The principals or guidance counselors or whatever mechanisms they have. They just provide the numbers to us and well determining our next or no later than the April meeting will determine the amount of the scholarships. You must be a resident of Fall River and they have to be students with disabilities who have been accepted to a University a College or Community College for the next academic year 2022-2023. That is the only commission criteria and the rest will be determined by the schools. Next month it will be added to the Agenda for the Scholarship amount.

1. **Old Business:** No updates at this time
2. **New Business:** Next Meeting Wednesday March 09, 2022 3:30 P.M Guest SGT Kevin Dolan. Update on the Disability Parking Enforcement Program and the vote renew the program
3. **Adjournment at 3:53 P.M**

Motion made by Commissioner Daniel Robilard to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; none opposed; Absentions; 1

 **Documents Distributed**

 Agenda

 Minutes from the meeting of November 10, 2021

 Budget Report for October, November & December 2021