**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, August 17th, 2022**

**3:30 PM**

Chairman Dennis Polselli called the meeting to order at 3:32pm

1. Chairman Dennis Polselli opened the meeting by reading the Open Meeting Law statement.
2. **Members Present:** Chairman Dennis Polselli; Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco; Commissioner Lisa Silva; Commissioner Dan Robillard

**Others Present:** Sandy Berube Health Department Clerk and Director of Facilities Maintenance Tammy Moutinho

1. **Members Absent:** Commissioner Ann O’Neil-Sousa andAttorney Gary Howayeck ESQ, ADA Coordinator
2. **Public Input:** No public input.
3. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of Wednesday, June 8th, 2022**

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to accept the minutes from the Commission on Disability meeting from Wednesday, June 8th, 2022

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions; 0

**Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to take the Agenda out of order to do all voting items first**

**Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco**

**All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions; 0**

Chairman Dennis Polselli explains that the first voting item concerns next year’s scholarship luncheon. The Work Group is recommending that next year we have a sunrise breakfast format. This seems to be more appealing to students versus lunches. It would be Saturday June 3rd, 2023. Commissioner Dan Robillard explains that he will be in touch this week with McGovern’s to finalize the time. Chairman Dennis also states that the deposit will be taken care of and that City Hall will send a $100 deposit.

Mr. Dan Robillard explains that until McGovern’s receives the $100 deposit that they will not confirm a date and time.

Motion made by Dan Robillard to allocate not to accede $8,000.00 for all issues involving the 2023 Fall River Disability Commission Scholarship breakfast.

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

One of the next things to vote on is that there is a recipient from the 2022 Scholarship event that was going to Roger Williams University next year but has taken a detour to the Marine Corps but has every intention to go to college and would let us know when she is prepared to resume and go to college. Chairman Dennis is looking to see if we can defer the scholarship of $3,000 and when she is ready to go to college that the money would be there.

Motion made by Dan Robillard to defer 1 scholarship from 2022 in the amount of $3,000 to be used in a later time when proof of enrollment is received.

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco explains that the intent of these scholarships are for graduating seniors. What will stop from another recipient to say “I’m taking a year off and I’m thinking about going back to college in a year”? We should stay on path with our intentions which were to help these graduating seniors to obtain a scholarship to go onto college. Commissioner Lisa Silva agrees with Vice Chairwoman Debbie. We would be deferring it but wouldn’t know until when.

Motion made by Dan Robillard to withdraw holding the scholarship

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to rescind the Scholarship entirely in the amount of $3,000

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

Commissioner Dan Robillard explains that he has made the motion to rescind just in case any funds went out regarding this scholarship and the money can come back. He also asks Chairman Dennis if the recipient can be notified that her first request has been denied and that her scholarship has been withdrawn. Chairman Dennis has been corresponding back and forth and that he will be responsible for handling this matter.

Motion made by Dan Robillard to modify the meeting time of the Fall River Commission meeting from 3:30P.M on the second Wednesday of every month to 3:00PM on the second Wednesday of every month beginning with the meeting to commence in September 2022 due to a change in the hours of operation at Fall River Government Center.

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

1. **Guest Presenter: LT Nicholas Silva Fall River Fire Emergency Services: on a new program for seniors and individuals with Disabilities called “Fall River Cares.”**

Chairman Dennis Polselli explains that Lt. Nicholas Silva is from the Fall River Fire Emergency Services. A few weeks ago Chairman Dennis had heard a presentation on WSAR about a program that services seniors and people with disabilities on medical issues called Fall River Cares. Commissioner Dennis asked the department if they can come and talk to the Commission about it considering this would be a good way to get this information to the public. Lt. Nicholas is not present and we will reschedule with him or Ct. John Moran from the Fall River Emergency Department at a later date.

1. **Work Group Updates:**
2. ADA Updates:

Tammy Moutinho Director of Facilities Maintenance explains that the grant writer has reached out to all departments for suggestions. She states that one of the items is the police station entrance. At the main entrance of the police station there is a ramp that goes out to the parking lot but when you get to the other side of the ramp there is a six inch curb. This concern is going to be addressed. This is something that can be handled in-house and is not grant worthy. The other item that she came across are the ADA counters in City Hall. She says that they have been plugging away at those in-house as well.

Mrs. Moutinho states that she was looking at the transition plan and she noticed that some of the things on the list have already been done. One of the items that she found a lot of commonality was the public drinking fountains. She’s not sure how she feels about putting those in after Covid-19. Commissioner Dan Robilard agrees that with Covid-19 still being around that we shouldn’t put them in. Mrs. Moutinho explains that she wants to explore units that you can fill a bottle/cup and not actually drink out of the fountain. Commissioner Dan agrees. Since there are several locations she thinks she can come up with a pretty good dollar amount but if the grant writer doesn’t come up with anything this would be a relatively small portion of the grant.

She doesn’t foresee any big projects right now but as this conversation goes on we’ll probably discuss the voting places. A lot of it is signage and locations themselves that are very questionable whether or not you want to pursue with them being utilized as a voting place. Mrs. Moutinho is more than willing to tackle something on the small scale or again address the voting places.

Mrs. Moutinho explains that the Government Center has done a lot and continues to do a lot in the building. Right now in the Hearing Room we are upgrading the technology and also adding the assisted listening system. This project is going on now, we have just purchased the equipment for it. Commissioner Dan Robilard asks if an assisted listening system can be added to the City Council Chambers. Mrs. Moutinho says yes and that they are always available. Someone just needs to put in a request and I.T can set anyone up. She also believes that the assisted listening device are already available in the City Council Chambers. Anytime someone wants something done like such they would just have to put in a request ahead of time and we will have it ready for you. The assisted listening system was also mentioned for the Police Department community room. They just upgraded the community room so she will follow up and see if they have that available yet.

Commissioner Dan Robillard asks Mrs. Moutinho if these grants are eligible for ramp cuts, side walk repair or audible pedestrian signals for blind and visually impaired. She says that yes they all qualify and that’s it’s just a matter of putting them in. Chairman Dennis Polselli states that these grants are up to $250,000. Commissioner Dan would like to see a combination of audible pedestrian signals for blind and visually impaired people and some ramp cuts or side walk repairs. Mrs. Moutinho states that the Police Department has some funding in place in areas that they’ve pointed out. Chairman Dennis Polselli explains that all they needed was a list. His impression is that they do have a funding structure and they have a couple of places already in mind. A couple of intersections in the city including one where the Flint Senior center near the curtain loft area, going up to Walmart that are not lit. That is one area that they were thinking of putting both lighting and an audible pedestrian signal. Chairman Dennis has gotten the impression that there is already a funding structure in place.

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard that for the next election cycle that the Candeias Fire Station not be used as a polling place in the City of Fall River and that all the polling places be reviewed before the next election in accordance with the City transition plan.

Second: Commissioner Lisa Silva

All in favor; None opposed; Abstentions

Mrs. Tammy Moutinho also explains that they are anticipating opening the concession stand down in the cafeteria of City Hall. She has been working with a group from BCTC. They work with Autistic individuals and are looking to open up something simple so that their students can get some experience serving the public meals. She is hoping that it will be open by the winter.

Commissioner Dennis Polselli states that Community Autism Resources has a program called “GAP” Gottschall Access Program at Bristol Community College. They are going to open the café in the government center selling coffee, sandwiches and similar items. They are going to start off small. The organization would like to be open during daytime hours and possibly during City Council, Board and Commission meetings if things work out. They will probably be on next month’s agenda where we can discuss this matter furthermore.

1. Policies: Commission Vice-Chair Debbie Pacheco: No Updates at this time
2. Finance: ( See Budget Report for July, 2022)
3. Outreach: Lisa Silva and Dennis Polselli Scholarship program and updates.
4. **Old Business:** No updates at this time
5. **New Business:** Next Meeting will be Wednesday September 14th, 2022 3:00P.M.
6. **Adjournment at 4:36 P.M**

Motion made by Commissioner Dan Robillard to adjourn

Second: Vice-Chairwoman Debbie Pacheco

All in favor; none opposed; Abstentions; 0

 **Documents Distributed**

 Agenda

 Minutes from the meeting of June 8th, 2022

 Budget Report for July 2022