



Minutes

Accessibility Committee

Monday 10/05/09 @ 2:00PM to 3:30 PM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02920-3049

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Recorded by:	Christopher DeGrave
Attendees:	Ronald McMinn, Joseph A. Cirillo, Katie Lowe, Kathleen Samways
Absent:	Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Monsignor Sabourin, Arthur Plitt, Paul De Pace, John Desautel
Staff:	Harvey Salvas, Christopher DeGrave

Minutes

1. Call to Order and acceptance of minutes Ronald McMinn- Presiding

2:08 RM called meeting to order.

JC- Motion to approve minutes, KL Seconded- Vote Unanimous

2. Status of Projects/ Funding Harvey Salvas

~ The University of Rhode Island has a project currently out to bid. They are looking to convert all inaccessible knob hardware in Rodman Hall to accessible lever hardware. Rodman Hall contains many student classrooms as well as the graduate study library.

~ Salt Brine State Beach project is going very well. After some concerns over “true” accessibility the Commission staff insisted on the installation of an accessible pathway down to the beach. DEM has supported this and will be adding a ramp to the south side of the pavilion. Furthermore, DEM will be making sure that **ALL of the fishing pier “bump-outs” are accessible by design.**

~ The RIGCD staff is waiting for a project update on the Groden Center from the State of Rhode Island. Details will follow.

3. Open Meetings Act Project Update Christopher DeGrave

~ The Accessibility Committee would like to thank **Jenna Antonelli- Salve Regina University** for her dedication and true commitment to the Open Meetings Act Project during the summer of 2009. Jenna did a wonderful job inspecting and completing over 13 communities. The Commission will be looking for a new intern for next semester shortly.

~ (KS) - Suggestion to keep details of inspections publicized to increase public awareness and personal/ civic responsibility. Suggestions to allow communities that have been inspected and approved to be able to put RIGCD Approved Open Meeting Community stamp of approval on website or on public notifications.

4. Current Complaint/ Open Case Review Christopher DeGrave

CD made a presentation concerning the latest cases and complaints coming to his desk. The major cases are as follows:

- Southwinds Apartments- Narragansett, RI – Disability Parking Issues
- Saugatucket Springs- Disability Parking Issues
- Kendall Dean School- Open Meetings Act Modifications (Underway)
- RI Dept. of Business Regulation- Open Meetings Act Inspection/ Entrance Procedure Review

5. RIDOH/ RIEMA/ RIGCD Special Needs Emergency Plan Update Christopher DeGrave

~ CD & KMB are continuing to develop an annex to the Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan focusing on all aspects of issues concerning people with disabilities during times of disaster. Areas of focus are sheltering, communications, transportation and special health-care needs.

6. Announcements & Meeting Schedule Ronald McMinn

~ (JC) - Announcement regarding recent meeting on Aquidneck Island concerning personal mobility and accessibility. JC brought up concerns of pedestrians being hit on the local streets due to lack of pedestrian crosswalk signaling/ count-down devices. Would like to see active government approach to resolve issues and update older technology.

~ (KS) - Concerning old business, Kathleen is very interested in aiding the

accessibility committee in recruitment and retention of volunteers from ServeRI. She has valuable connections that can aide in the procurement of possible interested individuals. CD will contact once guidelines are set per management for volunteer activities.

~ Ronald McMinn motion presented to send Paul DePace a card from the Accessibility Committee wishing him luck during his upcoming surgery.

JC- Seconded... Vote Unanimous

**** Next meeting set for November 23rd, 2009****

Motion to Adjourn @ 3:10pm, KL motion, JC second- Vote unanimous.