



Minutes

Accessibility Committee

Monday 11/23/09 @ 2:00PM to 3:30 PM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02920-3049

voice:(401) 462-0108 tty:(401) 462-0101

e-mail: Cdegrave@gcd.ri.gov

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

Minutes

1.	Call to Order and acceptance of minutes	Kate McCarthy-Barnett
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2:08 KMB called meeting to order.

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

2.	Status of Projects/ Funding	Harvey Salvas
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- Harvey Salvas spoke on the Groden Center Accessibility Project and Elevator install. Process has been bogged down for quite some time.
 - Groden Center will be remaining a State of Rhode Island building after possible purchase.
 - Partial project funding was removed from the \$475,000 budget in October making the elevator install unattainable.
 - ***This week, the budget proposal was re-modified to \$475,000 to allow for the install.***

3.	Current Cases & Staff Update	C. DeGrave/ Harvey Salvas
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- *Harvey Salvas* spoke on the Newport City Hall. An inspection was completed during the week of November 16th. Several issues identified regarding Open Meetings & Access to Government Services.

- **Open Meetings:** A mobile site at the Newport Police Department is in operation for all City Council Meetings. Site has remote video and 2 way conferencing ability. However... site is not currently in use for any other committee or open meeting. **THIS** must be resolved and be made available for **ALL** public meetings to be accessible.
- **Access to Government Services:** Due to the inaccessible elevator and extremely slow stair-lift, an option for those with disabilities to be provided 1st floor service to services on the 2nd & 3rd floors must be made immediately available. Although not a perfect solution, this will be an interim fix until a new accessible elevator can be installed.
- *Chris DeGrave* made a short presentation concerning the latest cases and complaints coming to his desk. The major cases are as follows:
 - RI Dept. of Business Regulation- Open Meetings Act Inspection/ Entrance Procedure Review (**Project Underway- Issues & Solutions Identified**)
 - Several discussions with DBR are underway. Project plan has been proposed by our office and the RI AG's Office. We are looking to have final project bids in the next week or so. RI DBR is looking to make a presentation to the committee in the near future to request for project support and possible funding.
 - Southwinds Apartments – Disability Parking Issues (**Resolved**)
 - R.I.H. Neurosurgery- 55 Claverick St (**Under Investigation**)
 - Kendall Dean School- Open Meetings Act Modifications (**Completed**)
 - Block Island Ferry- Lack of Disability Parking (**Underway- Inspection Complete- Disability Parking required in ALL lots**)
 - Rt. 114- Newport to Warren: Several complaints on new and existing sidewalk structures- lack of clear path of travel and maintenance issues (**Under investigation**)

4.	Recent Accomplishments & Trainings	C. DeGrave
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Harvey Salvas & C.DeGrave recently attended 2-day training at the Boston ADA Center by the US Access Board regarding the upcoming changes to the ADA/ABA. Date of actual changes TBA. ➤ Christopher DeGrave was a technical session keynote speaker at the Annual Rhode Island Traffic Engineers Conference in Providence, Rhode Island on November 4th. Approximately 75 people attended the event. Speech highlighted several accessibility issues commonly found in transportation projects. 	

5. Accessibility Enforcement Discussion C. DeGrave

- C.DeGrave brought up concern regarding that lack of enforcement power/ability of his current position. He feels as though with a stronger sense of enforcement, further compliance would transpire.

Discussion Outcomes:

- Better utilize and understand hearing board process (Harvey S. to send out laws/ statutes)
- Discuss enforcement policies & possible options with Legislative Committee
- (J.D.) – Suggested adoption of a “Lis Pendence” capability to backup the enforcement /decision of the hearing board.
- Discussion to continue into next meeting

6. Announcements & Meeting Schedule Kate McCarthy- Barnett

~ **Joseph Cirillo** made an announcement regarding recent meeting/ event attended at the old Narragansett Electric Building in Providence, RI. The facility is been made a museum in the coming months. Requests that the Accessibility Committee becomes actively involved in the process of design and construction of the project.

~ **John Desautel** presented a moment of remembrance for Mr. Joseph Corrente. Mr. Corrente was honored for his dedication to the disability community and service to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities Accessibility Committee.

**** Next meeting set for February 22, 2010****

*****Special Meeting for DBR Project Review to be called*****

Motion to Adjourn @ 3:15pm, JC motion, JD second- Vote unanimous.