



Minutes

Accessibility Committee

Monday 2/15/10 @ 3:00PM to 4:30 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, Nicholas J. Capobianco Jr., John Desautel, Arthur Plitt, A. Michael Marques (Director- DBR), Shirley Dos Santos (DBR), Lee Beliveau (Grodan- Facilities), Chris Suchmann (Grodan- Govt. Liaison)
Absent:	Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Monsignor Sabourin, Paul De Pace, Katie Lowe, Kathleen Samways,
Staff Attendance:	Bob Cooper, Harvey Salvas, Christopher DeGrave, Nell Carpenter (Intern)

Minutes

1. Call to Order and acceptance of minutes	Ron McMinn
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3:00 RM called meeting to order.

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

2. Open Meetings Act Project/ Intern Intro.	N. Carpenter/ C. DeGrave
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- Christopher DeGrave introduced the new accessibility fellow, Ms. Nell Carpenter. Ms. Carpenter went on to speak about the current state of open meetings act inspections. Several communities currently nearing completion, many issues being identified.

*****Top Identified Issues*****

- Restroom Accessibility
- Assistive Listening Devices & Signage
- Reasonable Accommodation Notices on posted meeting agendas

3. Dept. of Business Regulation (DBR) Project Proposal	Director A. Michael Marques
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- Mr. A. Michael Marques spoke on increasing the ability for agency access for all Rhode Island citizens, especially those with disabilities.
 - Project to provide equal access and ensure ADA compliance under tight budget restrictions.

- Best solution identified (lobby receptionist) however, not attainable at this time.
- Security is taken very seriously with the agency **HOWEVER**, understanding disability rights ALL must be provided same treatment, service & experience.
- All patrons visiting the DBR will be escorted- no exceptions!
- Request made to the Accessibility Committee to fund the purchase and installation costs of a electronic/ digital video recording device, intercom system and desk monitors to increase accessibility for citizens with disabilities whom may require assistance while visiting the DBR.

*****Motion made by Mr. Arthur Plitt: To fund the Department of Business Regulation project at the total cost of \$4,426.56. Allocation of funding up to the amount of \$4,426.56 approved by the Committee.**

- **Motion Seconded: J. Cirillo**
- **Vote Unanimous- Motion Approved**

- Many thanks from the Department of Business Regulation on project approval.

4.	Groden Center- Update & New Project Proposal	C. Suchmann/ L. Beliveau
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- Mr. Chris Suchmann, Facilities Director at the Groden Center & Mr. Lee Beliveau, Director of Marketing & Govt. Affairs discussed current Groden Center modifications needed for accessibility.
- Requesting funding support for restroom modification on the lower-level. Project proposal will make restroom fully complaint with ADA.
- Restroom will service both staff & students

*****Motion made by Mr. Arthur Plitt: To fund the Groden Center project at the total cost of up to \$29,900 for the renovation of the lower level restroom facility. Project as proposed will be ADA compliant. Allocation of funding up to the amount of \$29,900.00 approved by the Committee.**

- **Motion Seconded: J. Cirillo**
- **Vote Unanimous- Motion Approved**

5.	Capital Budget Update	Bob Cooper
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- Bob Cooper discussed Governor's Commissions budget request for \$475,000, 450k of which was allocated for Groden Center elevator project.
- Governor has recommended a reduced capital budget of \$250,000.
- Groden Center must prioritize all future projects and put pressure on RI House Finance Committee for continued project funding support.
- \$250,000 budget will not complete elevator project as proposed.

***** Motion made by Mr. Arthur Plitt: To make a recommendation to the full Governor's Commission to appeal the Governor's budget proposal of \$250,000 and restore the full amount of \$450,000. Current Governor's recommendation will impair the completion of the project that is currently underway.**

- **Motion Seconded: J. Cirillo**
- **Vote Unanimous- Motion Approved**

6.	RIDOT Project/ ARRA Construction Review	C. DeGrave
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rhode Island ARRA Projects reviewed for accessibility after public complaint. ○ 26 projects currently underway- ADA Issues concerning sidewalk accessibility on several road/sidewalk construction projects- DOT Contacted ○ DOT Meeting Held- Issues identified previous to official complaints- Issues have been documented and will be resolved in the Spring when construction re-starts. ○ C. DeGrave appointed by the Commission to sit on the Rhode Island Department of Transportation ADA Committee to review all future construction plans. 		
7.	Parking Enforcement Sub-Committee- New Warning Notices	C. DeGrave
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New disability parking warning notice discussed. Will be distributed and made available to all staff and volunteers. ○ Idea very well received among the attending committee members. ○ Notice will inform the public, whom are violating state law, of the punishments regarding the offenses of parking in a disability parking space without displaying a placard and/or parking in the hashed access isles areas. ○ Commission staff members will take photo documentation of all illegally parked vehicles and will send them to the local enforcement agency for follow-up. 		
8.	Announcements & Meeting Schedule	Ron McMinn
<p>~ R. McMinn- Request to investigate the ramp slope of a ramp in current use within the Lincoln High School. Used as an H1N1 vaccination site recently, the ramp was a concern of many. C. DeGrave to investigate & follow-up with findings.</p> <p>~ Bob Cooper made a proposal to nominate the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for the 2010 Environmental Merit Award. The Accessibility Committee to support nomination of the RIDEM for the Salty Brine State Beach project and its integration of accessibility.</p> <p>***Chairperson KMB to write letter of nomination, deadline due March 1st, 2010, see details @: http://www.epa.gov/ne/ra/ema/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">** Next meeting set for <u>April 26, 2010, 2pm</u>**</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Motion to Adjourn @ 4:15pm, JC motion, JD second- Vote unanimous.</i></p>		