



Meeting Minutes
 Meeting of Human Rights, Fair Housing and Disability Issues Commission
 493 Main St. 1st Floor, Malden, MA 02148
 November 30, 2017
 6:00 PM

Committee Members in Attendance/Absent

√	Steve Finn	Housing Rep.
√	Jeff Gentry	Chamber of Commerce Rep.
√	Karen Lynch	Elder Services Rep.
AB	Richard Petraglia	Mayor's Resident Member
√	Susan Thomson	City Council Resident Member
√	Paul Weston	Natl. Assoc. Realtors Rep.
	VACANCY	

GUEST: No

MINUTES

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 MALDEN, MASS.

1. **November 30th Meeting** was called to order by Chairwoman Thomson (CT) at 6:00 PM. Quorum sufficient to conduct business. Minutes of the October 26th meeting were accepted unanimously as written. Motion by Commissioner Finn, second by Commissioner Gentry.

2. **New Business**
 - a. **Status of Disability Commission** – CT reported there has been no news of the Disability Commission which is to be developed. The Commission is hoping that the Chair of this newly formed Commission will be a non-voting Ex-Officio member of our Commission.
 - b. **Status of Ordinance** - CT was in contact Maria Luise, of the Mayor's office, and Councilor DeMaria to check on the status of the Enabling Ordinance. The Commission sent a draft of the Ordinance with suggested language changes to the Mayor's office and to Councilor DeMaria for consideration by the Ordinance Committee. They are considering the language we suggested. CT reported that this will probably not be addressed by the Council until January 2018. It is the Commission's hope that new and re-appointments will be made at that time. We still currently have a vacancy on the Commission and some members' terms have expired.
 - c. **ADA Issues** - Commissioner Weston (CW) brought to the attention of the Commission that there are mobile libraries opening up across the City. His concern is that they are accessible. There are currently no guidelines provided by the City however, they are considering putting some in place. A second concern CW raised was the lack of accessibility for wheelchair access to the "Santa Hut" at Pine Banks. CW raised these

concerns with the Mayor's Office and after this holiday the site will be revamped to address the access issue. (This year there will be additional people to assist anyone that might need help accessing the Santa Hut.)

3. **Old Business**

- a. **By-Laws** – The Commissioners agree that the development of the By-Laws will be on hold until the enabling ordinance is determined. By-Laws will reflect any and all changes made to the enabling ordinance.
- b. **Policy and Procedures** – The Commission is continuing work on the development of policies and procedures but they will not be finalized until the By-Laws are completed.
- c. **Mission Statement** - Commissioner Finn will send to Secretary Lynch draft language of the statement, including language on diversity, which will be distributed to members before the next meeting.
- d. **IT Issues** – We are requesting that the Commission has a single log in to enable any of the Commissioners to send emails from the Commission's email. The Commission webpage needs a downloadable Complaint form for the public to access if in need of filing a complaint. Other information that will be on the webpage will be: Mission Statement, Contact info for reaching the Commission, Names of the most current member of the Commission, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, Meeting dates and Minutes of meetings.
The Commission is planning an event to launch public awareness of this Commission as a resource for the public to use in addressing any concerns which would fall under the Commission's purview. Date, Time and Place TBD.

4. **Next Meeting Date.** Next meeting of the Commission will be at **6:00 p.m. on January 18, 2018 at 493 Main Street, First Floor, Malden, MA 02148.**

5. Meeting Adjourned at 7:01 PM. Motion was made by Commissioner Gentry and seconded by Commissioner Weston.