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**City of Melrose Commission on Disability (MCOB)  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: April 8, 2026**

**Commissioners Present:**

Garin Boyd (Secretary)

Gary Hale (Chair)

Margaret Sheets

Matthew Travers

**1. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Hale called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 7:14 PM.

**2. Public Participation**

Kelly Surabian, Melrose resident, spoke at this months meeting regarding accessibility of sidewalks around Pleasant and Gould St. Kelly indicated that landscapers and others park on the sidewalks and it creates obstacles.

**3. Approval of MCOB Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the March meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Sheets and seconded by Commissioner Travers. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. CODA/State Updates**

There was no CODA meeting for April. Commission Chair Hale indicated that the Wheelchair Repair Bill could be added as an amendment to the Massachusetts House Ways and Means budget and needs co-sponsorship. Commission Chair Hale will be working on a letter to State Representative Kate Libber-Garabedian to ask for her co-sponsorship. There is an upcoming hearing for "MBTA Focus 2050" around public transportation strategies and improvements taking place April 15th in Chelsea. The MCSPD met on March 17th.

**5. SEPAC**

No Updates from SEPAC this month.

## **6. Guide for Community Organizations distribution and Arts and Culture Summit, April 11**

Commission Chair Hale and Commissioner Sheets will be presenting at the 5th annual Creative Alliance Summit on April 11th. They will be speaking about the work of the Commission and the Guide for Community Organizations. Commission Chair Hale will be bringing copies of the Guide to distribute to interested groups.

## **7. High School work experience initiative**

There were six responses to the survey. It is late in the school year to move on this and maybe better to start in September. It might be a good option, in addition to the survey to make phone calls and personal visits to businesses in Melrose to increase visibility and participation.

## **8. MOD/ADA Grant**

Work on the schools should be happening during April vacation. The next MOD grant cycle is opening soon. DPW indicated that they have some money left in budget for small jobs outside of the MOD grant funds. Commissioners discussed creating a spread sheet of curb cuts that may need repair. In addition, Commissioners were asked by the next meeting to list out Top 5 DPW issues to target with funds.

## **9. Disability Pride Events**

Commissioner Sheets gave an update regarding July Disability Pride month planning. Commissioner Sheets and Secretary Boyd will continue planning.

## **10. Other Business**

- Commissioner Sheets indicated that the Melrose Municipal Vulnerability Project survey had netted 400 responses.

## **11. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sheets, seconded by Commissioner Travers and passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Garin Boyd, Melrose Commission on Disability Secretary.