



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

Meeting Date: June 10, 2026

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd (Secretary)
Alaine Breen
Erin Ryan Heyneman
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 7:01 PM.

2. Public participation

There was no public participation.

3. Approval of MCOB 5/13/26 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve May meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Sheets, seconded by Commissioner Travers and approved unanimously.

4. CODA/State Updates

After 2 month absence CODA meetings are back in session. Discussion topics were how to start a commission on disability and snow removal.

The Massachusetts Office on Disability is hiring a Disability Rights Specialist.

The Massachusetts Office on Disability is offering Advanced Community Access Monitoring training. The schedule for CAM trainings sent to Commissioners.

MBTA is offering free commuter rail Fridays through the summer.

5. SEPAC

SEPAC has had it's final meeting and will be reconvening in September.

CART services and ASL interpreters were at the Melrose High School Graduation this year for the first time.

6. Community Education Guide distribution

Distribution of the Access Guide has been challenging.

Commissioners suggested bringing copies of the guide to Follow Your Art Community Studios, Library, YMCA, houses of worship, and the Farmers market. Copies should be brought to City Hall.

7. High School work experience initiative and Rotary meeting

Commission Chair Hale and High School SPED Director Roxanne Wilson will present the initiative at the Melrose Rotary on June 11th. Commissioner Hale and Director Wilson met last week to prep for the meeting. Director Wilson shared that there has been follow-up with ten businesses that responded to the Chamber of Commerce survey including Follow Your Art and SDM Foundation. Director Wilson expressed her enthusiasm for continuing the initiative into the next school year.

8. Status of MOD ADA Improvement Grant and ADA priorities

Automatic door openers were installed at Hoover and Horace Mann schools during the April vacation. The remainder of the project funded by the grant will be completed after schools are closed for the summer.

Commissioner Travers has been identifying curb cuts in need of improvement.

9. Disability Pride Events

The Library story time event is scheduled for July 23rd from 10:30 - 11am.

A panel discussion will happen at the Melrose Public Library on July 21st from 7- 8pm.

A mural idea for 2026 Disability Pride Month is "Accessibility is Love" focused around Alice Wong and Disability Visibility.

The Melrose Commission on Disability will hold a brief meeting on July 8th at 7 pm in front of the Melrose YMCA. At this time, there will be a call to order, approval of meeting minutes, public participation and then adjournment.

The "Impossible Dream" ship will be coming into Charlestown.

Resolution: A motion was made by Commissioner Breen to distribute funds up to \$1,500 to be paid to Follow Your Art Community Studios for a mural to be created for 2026 Disability Pride Month, The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheets and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Heyneman to set aside \$750 for ASL interpreters for Disability Pride month events. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheets and unanimously approved. .

Commissioner Sheets will follow-up with the Mayor's Office for approval of funds.

10. Other Business

- **Election year this year. September 1st will be primary voting day.**
- Follow Your Art Community Studios has opened sponsorship for Chalk Walk on September 26th. A motion was made by Secretary Boyd to sponsor an artist or artists with disabilities to create a chalk walk square at the cost of \$250. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheets and approved unanimously.
- Commission Chair Hale and Secretary Boyd talked about their visit to Mount Hood to follow-up on an accessibility issue raised at last month's meeting. They

met with the site manager and recommended increasing signage to handicapped parking spaces and to the accessible entrances at the clubhouse. Commission Chair Hale has sent a follow-up email to the site manager and to Melrose ADA Coordinator, Paula Latta. There was a commitment by the site manager to address the signage recommendations.

- A Melrose citizen sent an email to DPW, copying MCOD, pointing out that at the intersection of Waverly and First streets (down the street from Winthrop School) there is a faintly drawn crosswalk and missing curb cuts. Commission Chair Hale suggested the Commission should look into the matter. Commissioners in the area said they would take a look.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sheets, seconded by Commissioner Travers and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

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