



**City of Melrose Commission on Disability
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 10, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd
Karen Burke
Judy Bushee
David Hoff
Erin Heyneman
Margaret Sheets
Paula Weiner

Commissioners Absent:

Judy Bushee

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Hoff called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 6:05PM.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Sheets and second by Commissioner Heyneman. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

No comments from the general public were provided.

4. CODA update

Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. No significant updates at this time.

5. 1/19 Training for Commission Members

There will be a mandatory online training for all members of Boards at 6:30PM on Wednesday, January 19th.

6. MOD Grant Award

The Commission received a grant in the amount of \$54,918 for a self evaluation and

development of a transition plan. David Hoff will attend a city meeting this Wednesday January 12 at 2PM to discuss paperwork etc. Deadline for submitting our plan is June 30th, 2022. Work will be done by a contractor. Plan has not been updated since 1996. This is an evaluation of townwide compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Activity cannot begin until the city council approves accepting the grant. Commissioner Weiner mentioned a City Council Organizational Mtg 1/10 at 6:30 and Jan 18th Reg Mtg at 7:45.

7. Letter to DPW

Commissioner Hoff sent a letter to the Director of the DPW regarding snow removal for people with disabilities and also to open a line of communication with the DPW.

8. Web page and social media update

Good news! We finally have access to the Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The Disability Policy Consortium MyOmbudsman program and the DPC newsletter would be good sources of information: DPCMA.org - <https://www.dpcma.org/newsletter>

9. Community survey update

Small group will meet this week to discuss.

10. Development of meeting accessibility guidelines update

The draft guidelines developed by Commissioners Sheets and Hoff were reviewed and edited.

11. Review: Draft letter to Mayor regarding ADA coordinator

The draft letter to the Mayor regarding the ADA coordinator position was reviewed. Language was reviewed to better reflect the commission's position. Commissioner Sheets made a MOTION to Approve the letter. MOTION seconded by Commissioner Boyd. Unanimously accepted.

12. Election accessibility

Secretary of State website ensures access to absentee ballots for voters with disabilities, however the emergency measures put in place have expired. The state legislature should be pushed to get broader protections passed. Commissioner Heyneman will draft a letter to State Rep Kate Lipper-Garabedian regarding our position.

13. DPPC - Disabled Persons Protection Commission

DPPC will be coming to our February meeting .

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32. Motion made by Commissioner Weiner, seconded by Commissioner Sheets. Passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission on Disability is February 14, 2021, 6:00 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Erin Heyneman, Commission Secretary.