



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

Meeting Date: April 13th, 2023

Commissioners Present:

David Hoff  
Erin Heyneman  
Margaret Sheets  
Garyn Boyd  
Judy Bushee

Commissioners Absent:

Aileen Breen

### **1. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Hoff called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 6:06 PM.

### **2. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 21st, 2023 meeting was made by Commissioner Sheets and second by Commissioner Boyd. Passed unanimously.

### **3. Public Participation**

G.H.: question re curb cut (ddd to agenda for next month)

M: Question discussing an event to oppose the vocational school project this Saturday at Wakefield Common.

### **4. Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) Update (Amanda Cormier)**

- Superintendent search in school committees hands. Interim superintendent limits our advocacy power. School committee meeting last week was focused on the budget.
- Everyone should look at Option C funding full budget in the agenda before the school committee meeting on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Next SEPAC Meeting: April 24th neurodiverse language in IEPs Noreen. Commissioner Erin Heyneman will follow up with Amanda Cormier re: names of contacts at each school.

**5. Follow Your Art Event – June 10, 2023: 7PM Temple Beth Shalom**

Theme is Taking Up Space / people who want to tell stories around disability. Need to find an emcee.

**6. Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update**

Meeting with Mayor on priorities. Mayor asking about use of free cash to address some of the accessibility issues identified and has been provided the spread sheet from the plan on priority and cost of items.

**7. IHCD Presentation**

Commissioners Boyd and Hoff spoke at a national webinar sponsored by the Institute for Human Centered Design on self-evaluation and transition plans. Impression was that there is a wholly dedication designated ADA coordinators in many other towns. Great visibility for our organization.

**8. Community Health Inclusion Project**

Commissioner Boyd heard back from Kara Showers, the city's Prevention and Wellness Coordinator. They are having another meeting in a few weeks. It has been helpful that our commission can provide updated information on things like curb cuts and parks because of the ADA self-evaluation. Mini grant was award from the MA Department of Health to Melrose in conjunction with Stoneham, Lynnfield, and Wakefield; 25k for accessibility or health related buildings and space. There is a May 10th meeting at the Cassidy Conference room at city hall at 12PM.

**9. CODA/MOD/State Issue Update**

Mass Commission for the Blind situation was front and center last month, with the commissioner resigning under pressure.

**10. Social media Intern**

Write up done and sent to Commissioner Breen who was absent.

**11. Cefalo Building Issue**

Commission working with residents of Cefalo Building regarding accessibility issues. Commissioner Hoff is following with MA Office on Disability and building management.

**12. TD Bank lot parking issue**

Commission received an email from a resident regarding receiving a fine for parking in the accessible parking space at the TD Bank parking lot, stating that the space lacked proper signage. Commissioner Hoff will check out the spot and report back to commission.

**12. Other business:**

- *YMCA Variance Request:* A visit to the YMCA is upcoming. The commission will be touring the building because they need several accessibility variances on a major building project. Add to agenda for next meeting.

- *Resource page:* Resource page on website needs to be updated. We may also wish to consider spending commission funds to ensure city's website is fully accessible.
- *Commission structure:* Discussion about how we can use our officer functions in a more streamlined way so everything does not fall to commission chair.

#### **14. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59PM. Motion made by Commissioner Bushee, seconded by Commissioner Sheets Passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Erin Heyneman, Commission Secretary.