



City of Melrose Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **June 12, 2023**

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd
Erin Heyneman
Margaret Sheets
Judy Bushee

Commissioners Absent:

Alaine Breen
David Hoff

1. Call to Order

Commission Vice-Chair Boyd called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability June 12th, 2023 at 6:18PM.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting was made by Commissioner Commissione Sheets and second by Commissioner Bushee. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

- G.H. thanked everyone for the Storytelling Night.
- M.M. updated on ongoing issues with site selection for the new vo-tech school.

4. Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) Update (Noreen Donovan)

SEPAC is getting organized for next school year. Adrienne Wood has joined and Mary Sparks is stepping down. Christy Burns is stepping in as Chair, with Amanda co-chair. Working on expanding city outreach. Noreen will be leaving in December as her child is turning 22.

5. Follow Your Art Event – June 10, 2023

The Follow Your Art storytelling was discussed. Commissioner Boyd noted that it was satisfying to see the vision for the event come true. Publicizing the success of the event was discussed, including possibly a story in the Melrose Weekly News.

BCity Council is holding a meeting in July to review the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The Institute for Human Centered Design will be presenting their findings with support from the commission.

7. Community Health Inclusion Project

Commissioner Heyneman and Commissioner Boyd attended recent. Meeting. Full amount of grant (\$25k) is being split among four communities.

8. Disability Commission Community Resource Guide

Commissioner Sheets and Commissioner Hoff are continuing work on the accessibility guide for community organizations.

9. Social Media Intern

Selection of an intern is being pushed to the fall, when school reopens.

10. Cefalo Building Issue Update

Commissioner Bushee toured the apartment where residents are having accessibility issues with Chair Hoff. They identified a number of accessibility issues. A summary was developed regarding the issues (attached). Commissioner Hoff will reach out to the complex manager. Commissioners' Heyneman and Bushee agreed that this type of help is what we should be doing, standing with people as they work with landlords, etc.

11. Voc/Tech School Update

Discussed that we feel concerns expressed about accessibility issues with the new NEMT building in Wakefield aren't being heard. Community member Meghan McDnough stated that the NEMT Building Committee is not releasing meeting minutes, which is a violation of open meeting number.

Motion: Commissioner Heyneman motioned for Chair Hoff and Vice Chair Boyd to send letters requesting being put on the city council agenda for next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sheets. Passed unanimously 7:10PM

13. Other Business – Payment for CART Services at Follow Your Art Event

It was noted that having CART services at the Follow Your Art event was hugely impactful. A motion was made by Commissioner Heneman Heyneman motions to fund \$897 for CART caption services. Commissioner Sheets 2nd the motion. Passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24PM. Motion made by Commissioner Bushee at 7:23 , seconded by Commissioner Sheets. Passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Erin Heyneman, Commission Secretary.