



City of Melrose Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 08, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd
Erin Heyneman
David Hoff
Margaret Sheets
Alaine Breen

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

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

3. Statewide Activities

- Commissioner Hoff attended the statewide COA meeting last week; lots of talk of variances. On Tuesday February 13th, the Mass Office on Disability (MOD) is hosting a quarterly tea on disability architectural access quarterly tea. Commissioner Hoff will send link.
- Julia O'Leary from MOD noted at a meeting attended by Commissioner Hoff that they will be strengthening their support for commissions on disability
- MOD is hosting a networking event in April at Assembly Row.

4. SEPAC update

- December meeting was a social to introduce new parents to the group.
- PTO Reps from all elementary schools are working to bring Understanding Our Differences (UOD) to their schools this year. PTOs are working to find funds for the program. Commissioner Heyneman will follow up.

5. MLK Event

The Human Rights Commission is working on revamping the MLK Day of Service and other events on that day, and not taking on the role of coordinating the full day themselves. For this year, the Commission on Disability will not be having any activities. Commissioner Heyneman suggested an even earlier timeline in terms of organizing, starting in July and August.

6. Social Media Interns

The high school interns are using newsletters to create social media content. Commissioner Heyneman will meet with the interns in January.

7. Disability Pride Event Update

There is a meeting tomorrow (1/09) to discuss details and further planning. Working on budget, figuring out direction, and ownership of different tasks.

8. Story Telling Event

Efforts are underway for another storytelling event with Follow Your Art. It was suggested that the current video of last year's event could be edited down to a promotional piece.

9. Community Education Guide Update

Commissioner Hoff is making edits.

10. MOD grant

State has still not announced grant awards from MOD. Melrose applied for funding to renovate restrooms at the Milano Center.

11. Commissioner appointments/changes

Commissioner Heyneman is up for reappointment. Commissioner Bushee has resigned. We will work with the new mayor to get the city slot on the commission filled. Officer elections will be held in March.

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Boyd made motion to adjourn at 6:42PM. Commissioner Sheets seconded and was approved unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Erin Ryan Heyneman, Commission Secretary.