



RECEIVED

By City Clerks Office at 8:49 am, Jul 18, 2024

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

Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd
Alaine Breen
Gary Hale
Erin Heyneman
David Hoff
Margaret Sheets
Matthew Travers

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Hoff called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 7:11 PM.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2024 meeting was made by Commissioner Sheets and second by Commissioner Hale. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

M. McDonough indicated that the senior tax work off was raising the threshold from \$1000 to \$2000.

4. Introduction of new Commissioner: Matt Travers.

Matt works in HR for the City of Melrose, and will be city's representative on the commission.

5. State Events

- Commissioner Hale attended the CODA meeting for June and indicated that there was a lot of talk around municipal Disability Pride events. Other topics included community grant and MOD grant submission. Cambridge is working on employment options. Somerville gets a lot of revenue (parking fines). Winchester will also be hosting an event around Disability Pride.
- Commissioner Heyneman informed the Commission that the Paul Spooner leadership conference would once again be happening in Marlborough MA. Sept. 23 – 25.

6. SEPAC (Special Education Parents Advisory Council)

No SEPAC representative present at meeting.

7. Disability Pride Event Update

- Mural commissioned for the Disability Pride Month is going to be completed in early July. Unveiling of the mural could be scheduled for July 8th. Still waiting to hear back from Mayor's office.
- Disability Panel Event will occur Saturday, July 20, 2024 at the Melrose Highlands Congregational Church from 10 am to 11 am.
- Possibility of getting a one pager together to give information on Commissioners (panelists) rather than having focus of discussion on introduction. Format will be open and Q & A encouraged.
- Budget for Disability Pride: \$1000 for mural. \$100 honorarium for author. Costs of ASL interpreter. Commissioner Boyd motioned to approve budget request for \$2000 for Disability Pride activities. Seconded by Commissioner Sheets. Motion passes unanimously.

8. MOD Grant

City has submitted for \$25,000 grant from the MA Office on Disability, for accessibility improvements in schools. Commissioner Hoff submitted letter of support from the Commission.

9. School Interns

Will invite to Disability Pride activities. Will begin process over summer for recruitment for coming school year.

10. City Disability Policies

The city has asked the commission to assist with drafting policies on accommodations and related issues. Commissioners Hale, Hoff and Travers will form a group to have discussion around this.

11. Transition from School to Adult Life

The commission's efforts to support the Melrose schools efforts on transition and students obtaining work experience while in school were discussed. Gary Hale and David Hoff will work on this. Commission Chair Hoff will reach out to the special education director as a starting point.

12. Website

Commissioner Hoff and Boyd will meet to discuss.

13. Community Access Guide

Commission Hoff reported that he is still working on getting a final draft, with the goal of having it completed by the July meeting.

14. Other Business:

PROWAG – A city resident raised the issue of new PROWAG requirements - Public Right of Way Accessibility Guides – and whether the city was aware of them and incorporating them into its paving plans, etc.. Commissioner Travers will follow up with the city.

Trash barrel issue -

From email to commission: Resident has reported having problems with new large trash barrels due to a disability issue. DPW has promised to find a solution by providing a smaller barrel. Commission Chair Hoff will follow up with resident. This may be a larger issue that more people are experiencing but not reporting.

Request from Triangle: Commissioner Sheets indicated that she had been in contact with the organization Triangle, regarding a tour of Melrose City Hall. She will follow up.

15. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Sheets. Seconded by Commissioner Heyneman.

Meeting minutes submitted by Garin Boyd, Commission Secretary.