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

Meeting Date: May 14, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd (Secretary)
Alaine Breen
Gary Hale (Commission Chair)
David Hoff (Vice Chair)
Margaret Sheets
Matthew Travers

1. Call to Order

Commission Chair Hale called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 9th meeting was made by Commissioner Sheets and seconded by Commission Vice-Chair Hoff. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

4. CODA/State Updates

Commission Secretary Boyd attended the CODA monthly meeting. Discussions at CAM meeting included social media, Commission websites and MOD grants. CAM (Community Access Monitoring) training will begin soon. Commissioners Sheets and Boyd both attended a “reunion” from the Paul Spooner Conference. There was positive feedback from the event: “Disability is Diversity” a storytelling event that was created by Disabled Stories Collective.

5. Community Education Guide Update

Community guide is in final draft.

6. Disability Pride 2025 plans

Commissioners Sheets, Heyneman and Boyd are planning Disability Pride events. They have pushed back the date of a Disability focused art show to September 2025. A mural is to be once again created by Follow Your Art Community Studios. Story time for kids is still being planned but will happen Tuesday, July 22. A disability panel is set to happen July 23rd at the library, ASL interpreters still need to be secured for this event.

7. MOD grant application

Commission Chair Hale has visited three elementary schools: Hoover, Winthrop and Horace Mann. All 3 schools have multi levels with no elevator access. All schools do not have automatic door openers at the front entrance. Winthrop and Horace Mann both have stages with stairs and no accessible access. Horace Mann needs a railing for the front entrance ramp as well as a ramp with an appropriate grade from the main corridor to the lower gym floor. A proposal for the Milano Center is also being considered. The training Room at Melrose City Hall is inaccessible based on it's location between floors. A meeting with ADA Coordinator, Polina Latta is scheduled for May 16th.

8. Melrose Commission on Disability Bylaws

Commission Chair Hale indicated that he would like to review the "purpose" statement of Commission by-laws. Commission Vice-chair Hoff indicated that many of the by-laws were set up from "boiler plate" documentation from other municipalities Commissions on Disability and could be reviewed and replaced with more specific language.

9. Friends of the Melrose Commission on Disability

At the CODA meeting, members of different municipality Commissions mentioned the idea of forming a "Friends of Commission on Disability". The purpose of this group would be to offer support to the Commission through community volunteers. It also provides an opportunity for commissions to have a scholarship. "Friends of COD" would need to be managed by one or two commissioners. Commissioner Breen pointed out that a "Friends of COD" would need to establish themselves as a 503c in order to collect and distribute funds.

10. MCOD city Website Changes

Changes on website have been made to reflect current officers and members of the Melrose Commission on Disability. It was agreed that the minutes from 2020 and 2021 currently on the web page should be deleted and that current monthly minutes could be added. Changes and updates to Commission website should be sent to Thomas Dalton.

11. Other business:

- Accessible Trails is having an event and will also be having one in the fall. Friends of Fells and Malden Commission on Disability may have interest in working with this group as well.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sheets, seconded by Commission Vice -Chair Hoff. All were in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Meeting minutes submitted by Garin Boyd, Melrose Commission on Disability Secretary.