



**RECEIVED**

*By City Clerks Office at 10:32 am, Sep 11, 2025*

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

Meeting Date: July 9, 2025

### Commissioners Present:

Garin Boyd (Secretary)  
Alaine Breen  
Gary Hale (Commission (Chair)  
Erin Heyneman  
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 7:03 PM

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 11th meeting was made by Commissioner Sheets, seconded by Commissioner Heyneman and approved unanimously.

### **3. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **4. CODA/State Updates**

The ADA rally and march will happen at noon on July 23rd starting at City Hall Plaza in Boston and ending at the Embrace statue in Boston Common. The Event is looking for organizations to add their names for support.

Commissioners Breen and Heyneman both attended an event sponsored by WGBH at Museum of Science. The panel included the ADA coordinator at the Massachusetts State House. Commissioners indicated event was positive and well moderated.

There was a Discussion around Medicate and how the effects of recent actions may not be felt until 2027.

### **5. Community Education Guide Update**

Commissioner Hoff will be making final revisions.

## **6. SE PAC**

The school year has ended. We will not have an update from SE PAC until the fall.

## **7. Disability Pride 2025 plans**

Commissioner Sheets has created flyers and is working to get them out into the community. The flyers include all Disability Pride events in Melrose.

The Mural unveiling will be Tuesday July 15th at 7 pm at the YMCA courtyard. The mural was painted by artists from Follow Your Art at the cost of \$1,500.

For additional publicity, Commission Chair Hale and Commissioner Boyd are meeting with the Melrose Messenger. Commissioner Hoff is getting the word to Melrose Weekly News. Commissioner Travers is getting flyers to City Hall. Commissioner Sheets is going to invite Senator Lewis and Representative Lipper-Garabedian and Mayor Grigoratis.

Children's books on disability will be read during story hour Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 am at the Melrose Public Library.

A panel discussion on disability is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Melrose Public Library. Commissioner Sheets and Commissioner Heyneman will develop some questions for the panel. Several of the Commissioners will attend and participate on the panel.

Commissioner Hale called for a motion to approve funds to cover costs of the Disability Pride events including the mural and interpreters for the panel discussion.

Commissioner Sheets made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and unanimously approved.

There was a brief discussion about possible collaboration with the Melrose Human Rights Commission next year.

## **8. Guidelines for use of COD funds**

Commissioner Breen has worked on the revisions to address suggested edits from the Melrose City Solicitor for this document and added some language in the second section. Commissioner Hale called for a motion to approve the revised guidelines. The motion was made by Commissioner Sheets to adopt the revised Use of Funds policy, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved unanimously.

## **9. M COD general outreach**

Commissioner Hale introduced the topic by asking, how do we engage the disability community? How do the citizens of Melrose learn about our meeting? The Commission's webpage can be updated by the Communications Director at City Hall in an effort to enhance outreach. Commissioner Travers indicated that the city website is going through a major overhaul. More discussion is needed as to the best use of social media and other methods of public communication.

## **10. Other**

The DPC wheelchair repair bill will be reactivated and more comments are needed. .

Commissioner Hale gave a follow-up on the Lebanon Street parking issue, speaking with Sergeant Goc who suggested contacting the Traffic Council Chair. The matter will be brought before the Traffic Council at its September meeting.

The Commission will have a booth at the Victorian Fair. Commissioner Hoff has cleared use of funds for the cost of the booth through City Hall. Presence at the Fair is a great way for us to connect with the community.

The MBTA will be shuttling from July 26-27 from Wellington to Back Bay on the Orange Line.

### **11. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hoff, seconded by Commissioner Heyneman and approve unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM.

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