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**City of Melrose Commission on Disability**

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: July 12, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Karen Burke

David Hoff

Erin Heyneman

Margaret Sheets

Paula Weiner

Commissioners Absent:

Garin Boyd

Erik Hutchinson

1. **Call to Order**

Commission Chair Hoff called to order the regular meeting of the Commission on Disability at 6:06PM.

1. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from the 6/14 meeting was made by Commissioner Maggie Sheets and second by Commissioner Paula Weiner. Passed unanimously.

1. **Public Participation**

* Finn McSweeney from Melrose Ped-Bike group.
* City will be repaving late fall, the corridor on main street from west wyoming to sylvan
* would love to discuss the work being done and present to us as a group in august
* Paula asks about accessibility by wheelchair on bike path.
* Decided to have them present to us in August.

1. **CODA Meeting (State Level)**

Climate Change For People With Disabilities / Open Meeting Laws

The statewide group meets noon on the first wednesday of each month

Next CODA meeting is August 4 at 12:00, Melrose COD commissioners are welcome to join.

**4. Google Drive / Website**

* Setting up a google drive still a question - unclear whether we need a paid version
* DH mentions that we need a place to drop materials
* Decided to Send the current google link to Erin H (secretary) to move through / organize.
* Website: Homework is to come up with a list of links we would want folks to have links to when they visit our page! Commissioners agreed to do this by next meeting.
* MS says we need to have somebody with visual impairment
* KB says she’ll note limitations

1. **Accessible Playground** -

* DH explained 3 pieces of funding, passed by city council.
* Parks commission - supportive, but the funds need to be part of a larger plan. Keeping an eye on funding.
* Veteran’s playground - funding for bench potentially coming from COD
* KB mentions that we should make a list of what people with disabilities would need.
* Finn McSweeney mentions : Non Contiguous sidewalks on Melrose / Warren street.
* From Karolyn Ormond (in chat): My son is hoping to get his Eagle Scout project approved soon to build one or possibly two handicapped accessible picnic tables, The table is longer than a regular table so one or two wheelchairs can sit at the table too. Maybe one of the tables can go at this playground.

1. **Offstreet Parking**

Karen Burke - sending request for onstreet handicapped parking.

offstreet parking / request / agenda / apply - members feel this seems onerous

We need to come up with way to advocate to the traffic commission about this issue.

Look into Cambridge website / what other towns do.

PW - let’s get a meeting with the traffic commission, who meets quarterly / Diane Ardizzoni.

DH discussed process for review of variances -

* MS made MOTION to invite building inspector to our meeting SECONDED by Erin H. MOTION PASSED unanimously.
* PW made MOTION for formal invitation to City Council Liason C. Cinella to a future meeting SECONDED by MS MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. **Funds from city council**

Maggie S. will be drafting letter regarding fine.

PW: Where are those parking fine funds shown as a line item on our current City income page ? Where did the 10K figure come from? Find out what current fine is, etc. important to find out where money is coming from

**5 minute break called by chair (7:00 PM)**

1. **Polling Stations Report**

* Eric Wildman discussion of proposal to move some sites after the Sec State report on Melrose polling stations
* June 21st City Council meeting - report on accessibility
* 2 options to city council
  + shutter winthrop school move to City hall
  + Shutter Steel house. 1 Nason Drive Move to Roosevelt School
* MS brings up signage issue
* PW brings up having something directly on website - if you require special assistance, etc
* Erin H. brings up vote by mail / absentee . no longer need an excuse !
* DH in chat: From <https://www.ada.gov/votingchecklist.htm#toc5>: “The 2010 Standards require one accessible parking space per 25 parking spaces provided (up to the first 100 spaces). One of six (or fraction of six) accessible parking spaces, but always at least one, must be van accessible.”

1. **Understanding Our Differences presentation.**

Jenni Acosta, Program Director and Rebecca Lubens, Executive Director

SEPAC members present: Sheilah Gauch, Mary Sparks

* [Google Slides Presentation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c06vd2Iklm9k2YLUHu4kX9_B9zquQI18/view?usp=sharing).
* Curriculum features broad introduction to disability community, including guest speakers with disabilities.
* For MPS students in grades 3 and 5. / Can tailor curriculum to districts needs

Jenni Acosta: next steps: 1. Find a Local Champion 2. Make it clear Why it’s important 3. Locate Source Of Funding 4. Potential to Start w Pilot Program

* PW - 5 elementary schools in our district - we could pilot the program first>? How do we advocate for a pilot at one of our elementary schools?
* Mary Sparks of SEPAC - mentioned that trauma kids were missing from equation
* SEPAC discussion
* Sheilah Gauch - program sounds amazing - how can we work together / disabilities commission and SEPAC
* Erin H. suggests sending a liaison to SEPAC meeting
* Roosevelt school is brought up as a potential place for the pilot program

1. **Victorian Fair**

* Setting up at the Victorian fair. Roxanne Wilson
* KB: For COD I want to submit my memo approving request for funds for the Chamber membership and Victorian Fair. I vote yes.....can you please take an official vote?
* PW MOTIONS for approval for Karen Burke to submit memo approving funds for the Chamber Membership and Victorian Fair. MS SECONDS. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

1. **Other Business**

Pushing the other items forward to next month

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18PM. Motion made by Commissioner Maggie Sheets, seconded by Commissioner Paula W. Passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes submitted by Erin Heyneman, Commission Secretary.