

## Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 9th, 2023

Note: Members of the Commission may choose to participate in the meeting in person or remotely.

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

1. Roll Call of Commission Members:
  - a. **Present** - Tovah Miller, Amanda Belles, Nichole Mossalam, Marilyn Andrews, Chuks Ezewuzie, Maria Luise, Ralph Long
  - b. **Absent** – Shanti Chilikuri
2. Approval of minutes – Minutes were unavailable due cyberattack on city
  - a. Motion to table made by Amanda
  - b. Seconded by Chuks
  - c. Passes Unanimously
3. Guest Speaker – James Norris founder of Handicapable Fitness and Malden Resident
  - a. Goal is to help Handicapable individuals live a full and active life
  - b. Just published a children’s book “Feeling Left Out”. It is the first in a series of four books to help children deal with the challenges of growing up Handicapable.
4. Subcommittee Reports:
  - a. Policy Subcommittee by Chuks -
    - i. Communication Policy: Establishment of a dedicated telephone line/extension in the Malden City communication system for Disability services. - Discovered that this exists already with these calls being routed to Maria Luise. Recommendation was made that the VM message be updated to state this is the place to leave a message for ADA issues.
    - ii. Inclusivity Policy: Establishment of a Disability Services Office in the City Hall for Persons with Disabilities who live or work in the City of Malden.
    - iii. Accessibility Policy: Establishment of access room in Malden Public Library for Persons with Visual Impairment.
      1. Amanda motions to invite librarian to a Commission meeting by Chuks
      2. Seconded by Tovah
      3. Passes Unanimously
  - b. Schools by Marilyn – No updates
5. GRIT Chair survey by Nichole – Cyberattack delayed survey release, no update

6. Memorial for Frank by Maria and Marilyn -
7. Audioeye update by Maria –
8. Intersection of Main/Eastern and Madison Avenues by Maria – Was investigated and found that the timing of lights for crosswalk are incorrect. Due to the winter weather a temporary fix has been put on the urgent list to be taken care of next week.
9. Malden Health Behavioral Inpatient Health Facility: Vote for Commission Support by Marilyn – Discussion around the form the Commission’s support would take.
  - a. Motion to support this project by having Marilyn and Amanda write a letter of support to the Planning Board for this project on behalf of the Commission with the qualifications that our support is based upon the information they presented to the Commission and that we be kept in the loop of all future developments made by Nichole
  - b. Seconded by Maria
  - c. Passes Unanimously
10. Calendar of Disability Events by Chuks – Calendar sent out by Chuks. Highlights:
  - a. Jan 4<sup>th</sup> – World Braille Day
  - b. Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – Wheelchair Day
  - c. Apr – Sign Language
  - d. Oct.15<sup>th</sup> - World White Cane Day
  - e. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – International Day for Persons with Disabilities
    - i. Nichole will begin a spreadsheet for everyone to add dates they would like the Commission to commemorate and discussion of their adoption will be at the next meeting
11. Interface: City of Malden referral agency for mental health supports for all ages by Maria & Marilyn (Website: <https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/malden>)
12. Next Meeting set for Mar 9th
13. Motion to adjourn by Maria Luise
  - a. Seconded by Amanda
  - b. Passes Unanimously