

Disability Commission Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2023

AGENDA:

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:40 p.m. by Marilyn.
2. **Roll call of Committee Members:**
Present: In Person: Marilyn Andrews, Maria Luise Shanti Chilikuri
Present (on Zoom): Amanda Belles, Chuks Ezewuzie, Ralph Long
Absent: Nichole Mossalam, Tovah Miller
3. **Approval of minutes of 12/08/22 and 03/09/23 Commission minutes**
 - A. December 8, 2022:
Motion to accept: Maria
Seconded by: Shanti
Passed Unanimously
 - B. March 9, 2023 Minutes
Motion to accept: Shanti
Seconded by Amanda
Passed Unanimously.
4. **Any updates or action items that need to be addressed from previous meeting:**
ADA Self-Evaluation Policy Sub-committee reports and updates
 - A. **Policy: (Chuks)**
 - i. Chuks spoke with the Malden Public Librarian and as also reached out to the Mass Commission for the Blind (MCB) to get recommendations on updated equipment that MCB would recommend for public libraries. Chuks is waiting to hear back from the MCB. Next step is for Chuks to have a Policy Subcommittee.
 - B. **School Committee: (Marilyn)**
 - i. Early Learning Center (ELC) Playground Project Committee reviewed the 75% Plan at a meeting on Wednesday, April 12th. The Plan is to break ground in May and to start the work this summer. Summer school services for ELC students will take place at the Beebe School.
 - ii. Maria met with Police Cronin and Tamara Lawrence, ELC Principal, to discuss plans for the fall when school will be back in session at the ELC and the work will still be going on.
 - iii. There were tree community meetings held to discuss the ELC renderings. Feedback came from parents, community and staff.
 - iv. Shadley Associates (Architect) has been doing a nice job of looking at the accommodations.
 - C. **Public Facilities: (Maria and Tovah)**
 - i. Maria reported that she and Tovah have spoken with Eric Rubin to discuss recommendations for buildings to address from the ADA Self-Evaluation Study. Eric recommended the Department of Public Works (DPW0 building on Commercial Street.
 - ii. They will address the lack of handicap parking spaces at this site for constituents and the doors to provide better accessibility.
 - iii. Eric shared this work will not be a high cost.
 - iv. Maria said the goal is to make the public access office as accessible as possible.

D. Discussion GRIT Freedom Chair survey

- i. Marilyn spoke with Nicole and Nicole will speak with Ron Cochran to get the information on the GRIT Freedom Chair on the City website

E. Memorial tribute for Frank Cina (Marilyn) and wording for plaque for Frank (Amanda)

- i. Marilyn shared that Maria, Amanda and Marilyn met and talked about dedicating a bench outside the Malden Senior Center in memory of Frank.
- ii. Tribute will include speakers: Mayor and several City Officials.
- iii. Amanda shared wording for plaques for the bench.
- iv. Maria suggested to take a look at the bench to see the spacing between the slats and to take measurement for the printer. We need the information from the printer as to how much lead time they would need for this job. Once we have this information, we can set a date for the tribute.
- v. Maria suggested that any members of the Commission who would like to speak can do so.

F. Job search scams (Maria)

- i. Maria checked with Chief Cronin and he was not familiar with this. There will be more information at the next meeting.

G. Calendar of Disability Events (Shanti)

- i. Shanti downloaded the U.N. calendar.
- ii. Purpose to help make people more aware of disabilities.
- iii. Calendar dates will be added to the Disability Commission website as they are received.
- iv.

H. May 7-13, 2023 Children's Mental Health Week (Marilyn)

- i. Proclamation to be done for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. There was a discussion on who to honor and how to set up a program. Maria explained there is a grant through Hallmark Health. This year, the City is hoping to have someone at the Malden Public Library in this capacity. Maria said the City has already prepared the Proclamation for the May event.
- ii. Calendar dates will be added to the Disability Commission website.

5. New Business:

- i. Imene Bouzaine-Saidi has been working with Marilyn, Y staff, Maria Luise to discuss an Adaptive Aquatics at the Malden Y for all ages. Program will start small and then grow. Imene had done a lot of research into this program, including speaking with the program at the Reading Y. Funding will come from ARPA (American Rescue Act Money) funds and the Y is reaching out to community agencies. Funding has been secured for one year.
- ii. Marilyn shared the idea of doing public outreach for the Disability Commission in the City events (i.e., City Fairs). Also, this is another way to reach someone who cannot use online.
- iii. Maria shared that she wanted to update Chunks that all departments know that if a constituent needs to discuss accommodations, complaints or anything that the Disability Commission can address these issues with Maria. Maria's phone

message will be changed so that people can reach her as the ADA Compliance Officer and also for the Disability Commission.

- iv. Marilyn thanked Chuks for his advocacy.
- v. Marilyn updated the Commissioners on the application process for the open seat. Interviews were held this week with Kathleen Manning-Hall, Amanda and Marilyn. There were several applicants and a few were chosen to be interviewed. Kathleen will contact all the applicants. Marilyn reviewed the process.

6. Conflict of Interest training due April 15, 2023.

7. Annual Board/Commissions Report to the City Clerk

- i. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
Chuks made a Motion to discuss the Challenges and the goals in the May meeting. Maria seconded the Motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

8. Updates on the Open Meeting Law from a letter received by Alicia A. McNeil, Assistant City Solicitor, dated April 5, 2023.

9. Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

- 10. Scheduling of next meeting and adjournment: Thursday, May 11, 2023.** Meeting will be both remote and in person, unless otherwise noted.
Maria made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.
Shanti seconded the Motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn R. Andrews, Chairperson