

Disability Commission Meeting Minutes 2/10/22

Meeting called to order @ 6:38 p.m. by Marilyn.

This meeting held via Zoom in accordance with the orders from Governor Baker.
This Meeting was recorded.

1. Roll Call of Committee Members: Maria Luise, Nichole Mossalam, Marilyn Andrews, Amanda Belles, Frank Cina, Ralph Long, and Shanti Chilukuri were present. Chuks Ezewuzie joined late.

2. Approval of Minutes January 13th, 2022 with Amendment

Frank motion to accept as amended

Maria 2nd

Motion passes unanimously

3. ADA Self Evaluation and subcommittee reports

- Marilyn gives overview of the 3 existing subcommittees; Policy, Public Facilities, Schools
- Marilyn Proposes
- Public facilities Report by Frank Cina – Teen enrichment/Senior center will have more accessible parking spots, Grant for Senior Center work awarded, Bids placed for work on senior center
- Policy Report by Amanda Belles– Met with HR to discuss how to make open position postings more accessible
- Schools Report by Marilyn – Had a site visit at the early learning center while looking at recommendations from the ADA Self Evaluation. Meeting again on the 14th to discuss improvement for ELC facilities and playgrounds. Will be applying for a CDB grant for the ELC.
- Discuss of opportunities for subcommittee to collaborate on overlapping issues at next mtg.
- Subcommittee reorganization – members will join their preferred subcommittees and Marilyn will appoint new chairs at the next meeting.

4. Bylaws Discussion

Article I –

- No changes recommended

Article II –

- Chuks recommends changing the word “integration” to “inclusion” in second paragraph to align with the UN Commission on rights of persons with disabilities language. Recommendation accepted by consensus.
- Marilyn recommends changing “local groups” to ‘local community groups” in last bullet point. Recommendation not accepted by consensus.

Article III –

- Marilyn recommends changing “people with disabilities” to “people with differing abilities” in first paragraph to maintain consistent language from previous bylaw sections. Recommendation accepted by consensus.
- Amanda recommends changing all similar language in the rest of the Article to match the previous recommendation. Recommendation accepted by consensus.
- Amanda, Nichole, and Marilyn recommend replacing “parents” with “caregivers, life partners,” in section one. Recommendation accepted by consensus
- Discussion and clarification of appointment and term lengths per section two. No recommendations made.
- Chuks recommends changing all instances of “disabilities” to “differing abilities” in section three. Discussion of legal agreement with statute. Maria Luise to check in with legal on this language. Recommendation accepted by consensus pending confirmation from legal.
- Discussion on meaning and intent of section four. Recommendation by consensus to separate the section into two bullet points for clarity.
- Nichole recommends adding in “and/or has missed more than 5 total meetings in a year.” Recommendation accepted by consensus.
- Discussion on acceptable/unacceptable behavior by commissioners. Agreed to discuss Social Media and other behavioral guidelines at a later date. A third bullet point about guidelines passed by commission added to section.
- Chuks motions to table Bylaws discussion to the next meeting to move on with rest of agenda. Amanda seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

5. Voting Rights Letter –

- Amanda gives recap on background of legislation and purpose of the letter. Discussion on where in the process this voting rights legislation is towards full passage.
- Commission decides to still send letter with language urging passage of same day voter registration
- Shanti makes motion for Amanda to update letter with content as discussed by the commission, then send to lawmakers signed by the commission, and also share with other local commissions. Frank seconds. Motion unanimously passes.

6. Motion made to table rest of agenda Maria, seconded by Chuks, passes unanimously.

7. Next mtg set for March 10th

8. Meeting Adjourned