

Meeting called to order @ 6:40 p.m. by Marilyn Andrews.

At 6:40, Maria Luise read the COVID Statement from Governor Baker.

This meeting was Live Streamed by a resident.

1. Roll Call of Committee Members: Maria Luise, Kerlyne Pacombe, Marilyn Andrews, Amanda Belles, Frank Cina, Chukwuka Ezewuzie, Kerlyne Pacombe, and Lauren Schipper were present. Nichole Mossolam and Shanti Chilkuri were not present.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 8, 2021 meeting: Frank made a motion to accept the Minutes and Amanda seconded the Minutes. All were in favor.

3. Any updates or action items that need to be addressed from the previous meeting:

Confirmation of new members: Maria thanked the new Commissioners for their appearance at the Appointments Committee. The next step was the new Commissioners were confirmed by the entire City Council.

Update on ADA Self-Evaluation Report: Maria shared that the final draft has been shared with all Commission members and will appear on the agenda for the June Disability Commission meeting. Amanda asked what are the next steps with the ADA Self-Evaluation Report? Maria responded that this will serve as a guide for areas to be addressed. She shared this is a "working document." The Disability Commission will first review it. Kerlyne suggested that some ADA recommendations can be added to the yearly goals for this Commission.

Update on AAC Boards for K-8 playgrounds: Maria, Marilyn and Imene Bouzaine-Saidi visited all the school playgrounds to ascertain the location of each board. Maria is working with the Business Manager and the next step will be to sign the contract. Malden DPW will install these boards.

Discussion of the scheduling a forum or Town Hall on Emergency Preparedness and including Captain Cronin in the event: The Massachusetts Emergency Preparedness will hold a workshop geared to individual with differing abilities. Nichole will follow-up. It is recommended that this event be held virtually so it will be accessible to more people. Discussion also involved when to host this event. Evenings and Saturday mornings were suggested. It was also suggested the possibility of having this event during a Disability Commission meeting and possibly hosting it the week of June 21st with a 6:00-7:30 presentation with the last 30 minutes for Question-and-Answer forum. Marilyn suggested to included Officer J.P. Kelly to his event. Maria shared that all attendees will receive an Emergency Preparedness Kit by mail. Amanda asked how will advertising for this event be handled? Maria answered that the State will take care of the flyer for the event.

From there, it can be shared via social media, print media, Senior Center and all contacts.

Continued discussion about the PAYT (Pay As You Throw) program: Kerlyne asked about how to move barrels from property on trash day. Barrels were distributed to each home. Chukwuka asked a follow-up question from the City's PAYT virtual presentation. In the presentation, it was asked what is being done for those with physical disabilities who can't get down to the curb to move the barrels? Will there be assistance? Chukwuka asked for a follow-up answer from the presenter to this question. Maria responded that there have been some complaints about the barrels, but not with the issue specifically. The Mayor's Office is dealing with PAYT concerns on a case-by-case basis. Maria will speak to Ron Cochran to see if this issue has come up and if it has how often had constituents voiced their concerns with this. Maria will also check with Ron Cochran to see if this comes up how this issue has been handled? Amanda asked what other steps need to be addressed. Maria suggested that Ron Cochran can come to a Commission meeting to discuss the PAYT barrels and communication issues.

4. New Business:

Service animals and education to the business community: Amanda asked about service dogs' issue that was discussed at a previous Commission meeting. Maria said that Malden's Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission is addressing this. The concern is that realtors need to be educated about the regulations. Lauren has worked with service animals and accommodations with fair housing. Maria said that we should really educate business owners in addition to the realtors. Nichole will reach out to the Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission.

MOD (Massachusetts Office on Disability) Level Up Topic: Outside Dining held on April 14, 2021. A motion was made by Marilyn to add the PowerPoint and materials from the April 14, 2021 Level Up program to the Disability Commission website. Frank seconded this. All were in favor.

Accessibility for programming: Amanda suggested having virtual options for all to ensure accessibility. She asked if there is funding for an ASL (American Sign Language Interpreter). Do the schools use an ASL interpreter? Lauren explained that for any program that is over 60 minutes, two ASL interpreters are required. The question was also asked, do we also need to consider captioning for those who don't know ASL? Should we start with captioning so all can access? Maria shared with other cities when there is a huge event, an interpreter is brought in when someone asks for the accommodation.

Amanda will do research to review the agendas of the City's Boards, Commissions and other city agencies to see if they are including appropriate language for letting all know that accommodations are available. All City notices are reviewed by Kathleen Manning-Hall for wording that includes "If you need accommodations, please contact (with pertinent contact information)." All City boards are following up on these notices.

\$150,000 CBDG (Community Block Development Grant):

Chukwuka thanked the Commission members who spoke at the City Council meeting on behalf for allocating some of the CBDG monies for the Disability Commission to address accessibility issues in Malden. Chukwuka shared that the Commission members represented the Commission well.

Street situated between two cities: How are situations handled when a street is situated between two cities? Do the cities have a common agreement to handle this? The example that was given was Hancock and Belmont Streets. It was reported that Malden houses are the ones with the even numbers and Everett houses are the ones with the odd numbers. There are frequent accidents in this area. The traffic light has no audible sound, and it is suggested that one is needed. Maria responded that usually the cities work together on this and will address this with the Engineering Department to look at this. The Engineering Department reviews this and gets in touch with Everett's City Engineer.

Amanda asked what are the next steps? Steve Winslow, City Councilor at Large will evaluate this with Yem Lip, Malden's City Engineer. A motion was made by Chukwuka to have the City Engineer and the City review the areas of Belmont and Hancock Streets properly addressed this situation. It was seconded by Amanda. All were in favor.

Maria shared Steve is eager to work with the Disability Commission. Councilor Steve Winslow and Yem Lip will speak to the Commission on the manner to communicate CDBG ideas.

5. **Public Comment:** No Public Comment was made.
6. **Scheduling of Next Meeting:** The next Commission meeting will be held on June 10, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.
7. **Adjournment:** Frank made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting. Chukwuka seconded it. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn R. Andrews, Clerk