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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026

Attendance:

✓	Amanda Belles
✓	Marilyn Andrews
	Shanti Chilukuri
✓	Kate Doyle
✓	Chukwuka Ezewuzie, Chair
	Kathleen Higgins
✓	Ralph Long
✓	Lisa Picardi
✓	Maria Luise (ADA Compliance Officer) (in-person)

Members of the Disability Commission participated in the meeting remotely per the Governor's legislation of March 28, 2025, suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law. A Microsoft Teams link was also provided for members of the public who wished to attend

This meeting was also recorded through Microsoft Teams and called to order at 6:08PM.

1. Roll call of Committee Members

Chuks started the meeting and mentioned that it would be recorded via Microsoft Teams. He then called attendance as indicated in the chart above and a quorum was present to conduct business. Each member gave a self-description when responding to roll call.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 2025 Meeting Minutes which were tabled from the last meeting were discussed. It was pointed out that Amanda Belles' name was misspelled. Upon motion of Amanda to approve the November 2025 minutes with the correction, seconded by Kate D., the Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes.

The January 2026 minutes were also discussed. Kate D. mentioned that she was not at that meeting in person. Upon motion of Marilyn to approve the January 2026 minutes with the correction, seconded by Ralph, the Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the minutes.

3. Updates or Action Items that need to be Addressed from Previous Meetings

- **Blue Envelope Legislation:** Maria reported that on behalf of the City and the Commission, Mayor Christenson sent a letter supporting the Blue Envelope legislation to the State Representatives. Receipt was acknowledged.
- **Lions Club Collaboration:** Chuks was in the process of connecting with Michelle Luong and attending a Lions Club meeting.
- **All Abilities Bird Walk:** Kate D. updated the Commission on the upcoming spring all-abilities bird walk and resource fair, noting that for now there was no official date. The event may be postponed to July to coincide with Disability Pride Month and is expected to be larger than last year, with pre-event activities to build excitement.
- **MOD Grant:** Maria updated the Commission on the Mass Office of Disability grant. She is working with Eric Rubin to obtain quotes to upgrade high school bathrooms with accessible sinks. She will keep everyone updated.
- **Fells Feasibility Study:** Maria reported that the Friends of the Fells had reached out because they are applying for a grant in order to conduct a Feasibility Study on adding an accessible trail in the Fells. If they receive the grant they will reach back out for the Commission's input on the project.

5. New Business

- Marilyn and Chuks reported on the opening of the new Tufts Medicine Behavioral Health Hospital on the old Malden Hospital site. They both attended the grand opening along with Kate D. and Lisa. Marilyn explained that this is a 144-bed, facility offering inpatient and intensive outpatient care for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors. It will focus on mental health and substance use disorders.
- **Election of the Vice Chair:** Marilyn nominated Kate Doyle for vice chair, citing her enthusiasm and contributions. Kate expressed interest and accepted the nomination. Upon motion of Marilyn to elect Kate Doyle as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ralph, the Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to elect Kate D.
- Chuks introduced the Vision 2026: Nine Point Agenda and he explained that this was a way for Commission members to take responsibility for specific areas of accessibility and inclusivity, with assignments made and expectations set for progress reports at meetings.

He explained the T I E S H E R R A Framework and used this acronym to organize efforts across Transportation, Infrastructure, Education, Social Activities, Health, Employment, Recreation, Religion, Rehabilitation, and Accommodation. The goal is to make an impact in each of these sectors. Members volunteered for the area they were most interested in. The assignments are as follows:

Member Assignments:

Transportation and Infrastructure: Lisa noted that she was already working on this area with the Mayor.

Education: Marilyn

Social Activities and Health: Kate D.

Employment Activities: Maria

Religion: Ralph

Housing: Chuks

Kate H. and Shanti can also assist in the areas of their choosing.

For the March meeting, Chuks asked that each member report on any progress in their assigned sector. This will help to make recommendations to the Mayor.

After further discussion, upon motion of Ralph to accept Vision 2026 as the Commission's focus for the year, seconded by Maria, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt Visions 2026 by roll call vote.

6. Public Comment

No one spoke for public comment.

7. Scheduling of next meeting and adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:00PM.

Upon the motion of Maria to adjourn, which was seconded by Marilyn, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.