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Gary Christenson, Mayor

Disability Commission Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026

Attendance:

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

This meeting included remote participation. Some 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 remotely.

This meeting was also recorded through Microsoft Teams and called to order at 6:04PM.

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 February 2026 minutes were discussed. Upon motion of Ralph to approve the February minutes, seconded by Lisa, 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

- **Lions Club Collaboration:** Chuks reported that the aim of the project is to enhance accessibility at the Malden Public Library, including ongoing coordination with the library director and Malden Lions Club representatives. Chuks and Kate D. attended a meeting with the Lions Club and are now working to schedule a follow-up meeting with the library director. In terms of possible equipment, the Lions Club is offering to make a donation towards the expense. Michelle Luong is the contact person.

- **MOD Grant:** Maria reported on the progress of the grant-funded project at the High School. Eric Rubin has purchased the accessible sinks and other items needed for the installation and they should arrive over the next week. The goal is to complete the installation within the next month. The Commission discussed strategies for publicizing these improvements and Marilyn suggested the use of press releases and Parent Square used by the schools for broader community awareness. Maria will connect with the Superintendent.

Chuks mentioned other potential grants and referenced the most recent MOD newsletter announcing their funding opportunities. Maria agreed to investigate this as a potential supplement to the Lions Club's efforts. The Commission had discussed a library project during the last grant cycle but there had not been enough time to obtain estimates.

- **Vision 2026:** Chuks reminded the Commission of the T I E S H E R R A Framework that will be used 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 reported on their assigned areas of interest.

Transportation and Infrastructure: Lisa reported that she will keep a spreadsheet tracking accessible transportation options and infrastructure issues, such as dangerous sidewalks and potholes. She also discussed the need for community input via surveys or online reporting. Maria suggested sending a list of the problematic intersections and infrastructure issues to forward to the city engineer.

Education Initiatives: Marilyn summarized activities of the Malden SEPAC, the Bright Minds Quiet Spaces event, the Malden Behavioral Health Center outreach, and an upcoming DESE seminar. She emphasized partnerships and advocacy. Marilyn will prepare a one- to two-page written report on education initiatives for the next meeting to serve as a source for the Commission.

Social Activities and Health: Kate D. reported on the planning of the bird watching event. She discussed the need for coordination with the DPW regarding the signage because it was removed prior to the event last year. Kate D. also mentioned the need for accessible facilities, looking into food licensing, as well as ongoing outreach to health organizations. She will keep the Commission updated.

Employment Activities: Maria reported on a possible collaboration with Project Triangle and Mass Ability, both local agencies providing vocational training and employment support for individuals with disabilities. She is hoping to invite agency representatives to future meetings.

Housing and Accommodations: Chuks reported that he is the liaison for the Commission with the Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission. They are

working to address disability-related housing issues, emphasizing advocacy for ADA compliance and human rights.

Kate H. expressed an interest in the areas of Policy Research and Advocacy. She proposed and discussed the idea of focusing on policy research, monitoring relevant legislation and regulations at federal, state, and local levels. This would help the Commission stay informed and responsive.

5. **New Business**

No further business discussed.

6. **Public Comment**

No one spoke for public comment.

7. **Scheduling of next meeting and adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:00PM. Upon the motion of Maria to adjourn, which was seconded by Kate H., the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.