



## **Northampton Disability Commission**

*Gene Page, Chair*

*City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice-Chair*

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### **Minutes of the May 21, 2019 Disability Commission Meeting**

Members Present: Chris Palames, Gene Page, Marianne LaBarge, Jeremy Macomber-Dabs, Linda Kakos, Emma Cornwell, Jim Winston

Members Absent: Letisha Ward, Hannah Coyle, Judy Kimberly

ADA Coordinator present: Marie Westburg

Guests present: None

Recorder: Douglas Renick

**Public Comment:** None

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Welcome to new member Jeremy Macomber-Dabs.

#### **Approval of the March 19, 2019 Minutes**

Moved Chris 2<sup>nd</sup> Marianne Unanimously approved.

#### **Agenda Item: Membership Renewals--**

You will get a notice from the Mayor's office if your term is up. Fill out the application. It goes to the City Council and to City Services and you will be interviewed. You will receive a letter from the City Clerk with your membership renewal approval. You will be sworn in. You will take the test. The application is also on-line.

#### **Agenda Item: ADA Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan Update, plan for public forums--**

The Plan has been updated and edited. Marie Westburg and Lyn Simmons, the Mayor's chief of staff, worked on it. We need a motion for acceptance of the Plan today. Put a picture on the cover in color. A press release coming tomorrow. We will generate a list of people to receive the Plan directly. We need an outreach plan. The presentation before the City Council is set for June 6. We will reach out to deaf community. Others: municipal government offices, citizen's advisory committee, etc. Comments: Marianne: "I move to approve the Plan." Chris Palames seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Thanks to Chris for his good and hard work! The Plan will be put on the city website. Wayne Feiden will get a copy immediately. Chris and Marie will generate a list of people to receive the Plan. Disability Commission members should come and make a public comment at the beginning of the Council meeting on

June 6. We have children who are disabled in our schools. We could outreach to them and do a community forum for the schools. Chris: "I'll do as much as I can. Stavros provided transportation for today." We will reach out to the deaf community. Rodney Kunath is a contact person to help us organize a time and date for us to meet with the deaf community. Marianne will email Rodney tonight. He works at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Rodney has pushed for close captioning. Rodney could come to Chris's house for a meeting.

**Agenda Item: Accessibility Fair Update**—a Fair is being planned for the region, so the Forbes is not moving forward to do one itself. Marie has the information about the planned fair and will send it to the Commission. The Fair may be in Springfield. The Forbes is doing a lot of good work and will be a partner in implementing the new Transition Plan.

**New Business:**

The Pulasky park upgrade is recognized as a part of the city's revitalization. We received 250K from the state Mass Office of Disability (MOD) for the Pulasky improvement. This allowed us to extend the use of the grant monies beyond the park boundaries. Wayne Feiden's support has been key in getting grants from the MOD.

Jeremy said he would like to help with outreach. Jeremy helped in assessing the site near Roberto's. He was very helpful. Thanks Jeremy!

**Summer:** Should the Commission take one month off? Motion: Jim Winston moved that the NDC not meet in August. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Palames. Motion unanimously approved.

Chris had a meeting in Amherst about a program through Stavros. Stavros does home modifications, especially building ramps. They have tried to raise money for this work. It is a good program. Recycling adaptive equipment is also in Stavros work plan. Suggestion: ask NETA about their involvement. Can municipalities talk about a relationship with NETA to provide money for the municipality to respond to disability needs in the community? A municipality could work with Stavros about needed services. There will be conversations to explore possibilities. This was seen as an excellent idea. Marianne would like to be involved in the conversations. Stavros could come over the bridge. Northampton has a Reuse program at the Glendale landfill.

**Adjournment:** Chris Palames moved that the meeting be adjourned. Marianne LaBarge seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.