

Northampton Disability Commission
Gene Page, Chair
City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice-Chair

DRAFT Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Disability Commission Meeting

Members Present: Gene Page, Marianne LaBarge, Jeremy Macomber-Dubs, Emma Cornwell , Rodney Kunath, Michal Morton

ADA Coordinator Present: Marie Westburg

Recorder Present: Douglas Renick

Members Absent: Linda Kakos, James Winston

Guests present: None.

Public Comment: None.

Welcome and introductions--welcome new members Rodney Kunath and Michal Morton:

Rodney introduced himself with assistance from his translator. He was welcomed by the Commission.

Approval of the July 16th, 2019 Minutes: Marianne moved. Emma seconded. Motion approved with one abstention. Rodney hadn't been present for the July 16th meeting.

2nd Public Forum Date for input on Draft ADA Transition Plan:

The public hearing focused on schools will be held on October 15, 5:00-6:30, the usual monthly NDA meeting date. The needed translator will be provided. Motion to confirm this public hearing was made by Marianne LaBarge. It was seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs. It was unanimously approved. The deaf community will be invited as well as people from schools. Marie will inform all Commission members.

Transition Plan--review of input by city department heads:

Marie had previously put out the Plan for comment. These comments will be added as an addendum to today's minutes. Comments were received from the Director of City Planning, the Building Commissioner, the School Superintendent, the DPW, the Forbes Disability Committee. The Commission agreed to not incorporate the comments into the Plan at this time. It will wait until all comments are received and then incorporate them. Marie will be working on this incorporation of feedback process and will bring her recommendations to the Commission.

New Business:

Agreed that a Nominating Committee for the positions of chair and vice-chair of the Commission is needed. Emma will be on the Nominating Committee. Jeremy will also be on the Committee. Emma will be chair and Jeremy vice-chair of the committee. Letisha and Hannah

are not on the Commission. The Commission consists of nine members according to the by-laws. The Commission now has eight members.

Rodney shared his thoughts on a Problem, namely, Channel 15 and 23 have no closed captioning. He recommended that at the next meeting that he bring a TV, set it to Comcast, turn off the volume, and watch the School Committee or the City Council and learn how deaf and hard of hearing people feel. He's been fighting for 12 years. Channel 15 does not have closed captioning and I spoke about this 5 years ago. I'd like to watch the City Council meetings. I need to know what is going on. Marie: NCTV is dependent on Comcast and the Mayor is looking into this now. Seven years ago the CEO of Comcast said the problem was money.

Announcement:

NCTV will host an Open Media Relaunch Party on Oct. 18, 6:30-9:00, 33 Hawley St.

Rodney asked for a list of upcoming meetings with dates and times. Marie will send these out to all Commission members.

Adjournment: Moved by Marianne LaBarge and seconded by Jeremy Macomber-Dubs.
Unanimous approval

Next commission meetings: Oct. 15 at JFK and November 19 here at the Senior Center.