



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Community Engagement & Inclusion Committee

Councillor Colon Hayes, Chair
Councillor Taylor, Vice-Chair
Councillor Simonelli

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room #105
215 Pleasant Street

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Councillor Karen Colon Hayes, Ari Taylor and Chris Simonelli

Also Present: Malden Youth Council Members:

Aldino Talic, Benny Mei, Devyn Davilla DiMarco, Guiliannah Dormevil, Julia Gamitto, Kidus Tsige, Ollie Dodge, Sara Job, Serena Lama, Sophie Tran, Thomas Conti

Councillor Colon Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

Minutes to be Approved

[396-24](#)

Minutes of July 24, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Committee Minutes of July 24 2024 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[397-24](#)

Minutes of October 9, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the Committee Minutes of October 9, 2024 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[398-24](#)

Minutes of October 16, 2024 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that the Committee Minutes of October 16, 2024 be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

The Community Engagement and Inclusion committee will meet with the newly appointed members of the Malden Youth Council to discuss the next steps moving forward for the Council.

Councillor Colon Hayes explained the procedures for the meetings. She also mentioned that she spoke with Anthony Rodrigues about emails for the MYC. He suggested one Malden Youth Council email for the committee instead of individual emails. Councillor Taylor said anytime you forward anything in emails you should state just the facts do not

state opinions. When sending our emails you must be aware of the quorum which is 2/3 of the MYC there has to be less than the quorum to avoid an OML complaint.. She also recommended not putting anything on social media. Councillor Colon Hayes will check with legal to see if they are subject to OML complaints. This information is in the Council Rules Book.

Councillor Taylor foresees the set-up of this group for the next few months as follows: get acquainted with one another in December and start actual work from January to June.

Councillor Colon Hayes said this meeting will cover the following:

Overview our collective goals

Meeting logistics-times and dates

Discuss the election process of a Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk, election process and date of election

Set up our meetings and talk about a process

She talked about norms and respect for our meetings. She mentioned seven points, keep the focus, active listening, always show respect for yourself and others, assume good intentions, show grace and forgiveness, everybody's voice matters so value peoples time, make space and take space. She reiterates always remember these are public meetings and anyone can attend them so be mindful of what you say. She also says to have fun.

Councillor Taylor mentions all the Council meetings, committee meetings and Board and Commissions are public and you are able to attend if there is something you are interested in.

One of the students asked about going to college. Would they still be eligible to be part of the Malden Youth Council if they lived away at school. Another question was about the age limit to be on the Council for example they will be turning 19 next year but still attending high school. Councillor Hayes explained these are requirements which passed but they can be revisited. She said this is something they could discuss as a Youth Council and takes vote on.

Councillor Hayes asked about the meeting logistics. What days and times work for the Councillors and the Youth Council. Councillor Taylor feels they as the Malden Youth Council should be discussing this to work out the logistics of when it is best for them to meet. Once you start doing the work it will make sense when and where to have meetings. Councillor Colon Hayes asked the students for input on when it works for them to meet.

There was a brief discussion of zoom meetings and the possibility of Friday afternoon's. Councillor Colon Hayes said this would be a legal question as Fridays City Hall is closed so they would not be able to have the meetings at City Hall and also how the zoom meetings would be set up. Some of the students voiced they would rather not have virtual meetings. Councillor Simonelli said in person meetings have more of an impact. Another student mentioned there may also issues with quiet spaces, working wifi, ability to go into a private area if there is something being discussed like an executive session, zooms are pretty unreliable. Another student asked if they could meet at someone's house. Councillor Colon Hayes said this would be another legal question to find out if their meetings will be public meetings because if so they would have to be in a public place where constituents could attend.

The following motion was made:

Motion to have once a month meetings on Wednesday at 6:00 PM in City Hall and every Friday subject to change at the Library or Teen Center was made by Devyn and seconded by Sophie. All were in favor.

Councillor Taylor said if they are streamlined by December and everything is figured out you are fully up and running in January. She also let the MYC members know that there is nothing stopping them from contacting any single person in City Hall. They should feel empowered to talk to people and feel comfortable at City Hall.

Ollie asked if it would be possible to plan a tour of the building for the Malden Youth Council.

Councillor Colon Hayes said she will follow up with the legal department on the questions on logistics and will let the MYC know when she has received the response and contact them with the information. The students said once they get the meeting places and times back from legal they would be willing to start next Friday or the Friday after that if it is possible.

Other Business

Tabled Papers

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| <u>277-24</u> | Minutes of April 9, 2024 to be approved. |
| <u>279-24</u> | Minutes of June 12, 2024 to be approved. |
| <u>306-24</u> | Minutes of June 18, 2024 to be approved. |

Adjournment

Motion was made by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Colon Hayes, that this meeting be adjourned at 7:32 PM. The motion carried unanimously.