



**City of Portland
Portland Disability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2019**

Mandy Levine, Portland's Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist, convened the meeting of the Portland Disability Advisory Committee (PDAC).

- **In attendance:** Board Member Haley Pass, Board Member Lisette Belanger, Board Member Ken Shapiro, Kayla Moore, Sumner Ellis, Certified Interpreting ASL interpreter Arricka, Mireille Kabongo
- **Board members not in attendance:** Jessica Russell, Derek O'Brien, Steve Leighton, Michelle Ames, John LeMieux, Bud Buzzell, Yura Yasui

March 6, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

- **Speaker series:** recap of kick off presentation regarding Assistive Technologies with Kathy Adams, Program Director of Maine CITE, held on March 21, 2019

Mandy, Ken, Lisette, and Mireille all noted that they were pleased with the turnout for the kick off presentation for the speaker series and that the presenter, Kathy Adams, provided an abundance of very helpful resources.

More information about the upcoming presentations can be found on PDAC's Facebook page (<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1547/Portland-Disability-Advisory-Committee>) and webpage, <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1547/Portland-Disability-Advisory-Committee>.

- **All Abilities Festival August 2, 2019:**

Mandy shared that we will not be proceeding with the All Abilities Festival on August 2nd due to the magnitude of planning the event and recent challenges getting assistance in the planning process of recent events. The PDAC members in attendance discussed tackling initiatives and events that can be realistically organized during monthly meeting times, such as:

- The Committee being the focus of a STRIVEcast podcast, <https://www.pslstrive.org/STRIVECast>;

- Hosting the Unum disability experience with assistance from Ken and his colleagues at Unum;
- Having more speakers during monthly meetings;
- Expansion of the Speaker Series beyond the four already-scheduled sessions including, in part, focusing on self-advocacy: hearing from speakers with disabilities who are advocating for themselves. Some potential speakers we discussed:
 - Michelle Ames providing her visual/gestural communications presentation;
 - Brain Injury Voices;
 - Cromwell Center for Disabilities Awareness, <http://cromwellcenter.org/>;
 - Speaking Up for Us of Maine, <http://sufumaine.org/>.

Mandy indicated that she would follow up with the PDAC members to explore our next priorities likely via a survey.

- **Upcoming 2019 meeting dates**, all from 11 am to 12 pm in Room 24 in the basement of City Hall
 - May 1st
 - June 5th
 - July 10th
 - August 7th
 - September 4th
 - October 2nd
 - November 6th
 - December 4th
- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mandy Levine
City of Portland Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Specialist