



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTES: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Kathleen Sullivan, Annmarie McConville, Joe Petrini, Susan Adams, Pat Delaney, Sandra Adams

Commissioners Absent: Bryan Barry, Theresa Nevin

1. Review November 9, 2009 Minutes
Mr. Petrini made a motion to accept the minutes of November 9th as submitted. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Correspondence
There was no correspondence

3. Chairman's Report
Mr. Petrini wished everyone a Happy New Year.

There will be an election of officers next month so the Commission can select a new chair and vice chair in order to give someone else the opportunity to serve as chair.

4. ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri's Report
Mr. Gualtieri is working with an individual with a disability who is facing an eviction next month for non payment or late payment of rent. Mr. Gualtieri referred him to the Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, which will review his case. Mr. Gualtieri also has a tape from the CT Department of Developmental Services dealing with employment. A Federal handout was also available.

Ms. Tobin will ask the Mayor to send a letter to Ms. Nevin asking her if she wishes to remain on the Commission as an active member attending Commission meetings or if she should be

replaced on the Commission at this time. If she wishes to be replaced, the Commission would like her and her family to remain active as a non commissioner volunteers.

5. Committee Reports

Ms. Delaney has been putting Commission meeting notices in the local newspapers.

6. Old Business

Pat Delaney emailed Mr. Petrini last week, and said the funding is still up in the air for the Disability Film Festival. Mr. Gualtieri said there was a decision a few months ago to cancel this program if the funding was not in place by January 9th.

Mr. Petrini said perhaps we can do this program ourselves with films the Commission could purchase from a company that the Veterans Administration uses to purchase some of their disability films. (Program Development Associates)

Ms. Delaney arrived at the meeting and said the funding is not complete, but many people that were contacted before Christmas said that their 2009 funds were depleted but to contact them after January 1, 2010. The Commission has to raise \$800. The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven is going to make a donation. Mr. DeSalvo of Sprout will hold the dates for us but our commitment is not firm until we have the full \$1,600. The dates are booked for Friday nights because we would have to pay janitorial fees if we had it on a weekend. An April and May date have been booked for workshops. The workshop is to help people with disabilities to make a film to submit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art Disability Film Festival in 2011. There will be discussion after the films and refreshments will be served. Mr. Petrini said we should start publicizing this soon. Mrs. Morganstern of Young Audiences Arts for Learning is doing the workshop. This is an organization that works with people with disabilities. Her organization is providing the funding and the assistance required. The Sprout representatives will be here on April 9th. Ms. Delaney will be meeting with Mrs. Morganstern later this week. Once the money is in place, we will start the publicity. Commissioners hope to know the status of the funding by the 8th of February. Ms. Delaney will ask at their next meeting what they will do and what we will have to do regarding publicity. Mr. Petrini said we will have to send flyers to all of the group homes, Marrakesh, the CT Office of Protection and Advocacy etc. VSA will also help with publicity. This is a joint project between various agencies including the Arts Commission, Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities, and Young Audiences

Approval of 2010 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Petrini made a motion to accept the 2010 meeting dates as presented, Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

There was discussion on Dr. Barry's suggestion to join the Chamber. This item was tabled to the next meeting. The Commission needs to know the cost and what the Chamber can do for us. The Commission needs more information.

7. New Business

There was discussion on new ideas for the Commission to work on for the upcoming year. Mr. Balogh had suggested a job board. He and Mr. Petrini thought about creating a web site and perhaps accommodating a job board. Ms. McConville said there are people that advocate for the disabled to find jobs. Ms. Adams said perhaps our site could be linked to other sites. Mr. Gualtieri announced that the Town is in the process of updating its website. Mr. Petrini said we

have to do a better job this year with the awards to a disability friendly business. Mr. Gualtieri suggested that Commissioners review the meeting dates and schedule the dates for events at the February meeting. The film festival will be held on 4/9, and the workshops on April 23rd and May 21st. The dance can be in early May. May 7th is the first Friday in May. There was discussion on a tag sale and the idea of piggybacking onto a church sale where we could rent a table. There was also discussion on Commissioners taking turns in teams of two to take charge of events.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk