



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTES: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Joe Petrini, Bryan Barry, Annmarie McConville, Eileen Carpinella, Kathleen Sullivan, Pat Delaney, Rosalie Cavanaugh

Commissioners Absent: Theresa Nevin

Others in Attendance: Bob Gualtieri, ADA Coordinator
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

There was discussion on finding a new commissioner to replace Mr. Petrini. Mr. Petrini agreed to stay on until a replacement is found.

1. Review Minutes of February 14, 2011

Ms. McConville noted that under the discussion regarding the upcoming Spring Fling, only a few volunteers are needed in addition to the Commissioners because staff from the group homes are required to stay.

Ms. McConville made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14th. Dr. Barry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Correspondence
Nothing to report

3. Chairman's Report

There was discussion on participation in the Memorial Day Parade. The Commission plans to participate and will discuss this further at the next meeting.

4. ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri's Report

Mr. Gualtieri reported that sidewalk projects will resume this spring, and will start in Spring Glen where they left off last fall. Whitneyville is next for sidewalk repairs and curb cuts. Question came up about Meadowbrook's Worth Avenue and Centerbrook Road. Mr. Gualtieri will check with Julie Smith in the Mayor's Office.

There was discussion on Quinnipiac housing and group homes. Mr. Gualtieri said Quinnipiac Housing is handled by Planning & Zoning and is governed by ordinances. Landlords are supposed to get permits from P&Z and are allowed to have 4 students per housing unit. Some landlords bypass the rules and try to cram more than four students in. Group homes are handled at the state level under the Department of Developmental Services. Mr. Gualtieri has the phone number of an ombudsman for further information. Commissioners said group homes are supervised 24/7 and usually have 6 occupants. Leslie Creane, Town Planner should be able to answer the question about number of residents allowed. Ms. McConville said the state is turning over most group homes to private agencies. 4 people would not be cost effective for a private agency. Pat Delaney said there are long waiting lists, and nothing should stand in the way of these group homes. Mr. Petrini felt this was something the Commission should pursue.

Ms. Delaney received the films the Commission ordered and asked that a photo session be set up for the presentation of the films to the Library. The sister of one of the people in the film "Aha" is a photography major at Hamden High School, and she will take the photo. The session should include the Mayor, Bob Gualtieri, Mimsi Coleman and commissioners. Ms. Tobin will check the Mayor's calendar. Ms. Delaney noted that the film "Aha" must be played on a blue ray or on a computer. Ms. Delaney said the film was shown at Quinnipiac last week during a program that was part of a campaign for ending the word retarded. This was a two hour program for focusing on people's abilities. Craig Norton, the videographer was asked to submit "Aha" to a film festival in Boston, and she has not heard further about that. She said we should show the film at one of our meetings. It is 22 minutes long.

5. Committee Reports

Spring Fling – Ms. McConville reported that this event is planned for May 6, 2011, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. DeMartino sent Ms. McConville a draft flyer, but she lowered the price from \$7 to \$5 or \$10 at the door. There will be raffle tickets for door prizes given to those that are preregistered and prepaid. This event will take place at Hamden Middle School. Commissioners are asked to bring snacks and we will also purchase drinks and snacks. Ms. Sullivan will notify the fraternity at Quinnipiac that wants to participate. We should have about five helpers, and volunteers should be there at 6:30 p.m. to set up.

The Commission discussed sending letters to other towns parks & recreation departments letting them know what we do, and asking if they have similar programs, with a goal of having other towns have one event each year. Ms. Delaney said Wallingford has a woman who works with the disabled in their parks and recreation department. Ms. McConville will write up a draft letter and bring it to the next meeting for review. Letters will go to North Haven, West Haven, East Haven, Wallingford and Cheshire.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Dr. Barry said the Hamden Chamber Business Expo will take place on Saturday, April 16th at Hamden High School from 11:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m. He will have a booth for his business. This Commission will attend and share a booth with the Town if possible. Ms. Sullivan volunteered to

help at the table. Mr. Balogh will attend but is not sure if he will be with Lincoln Tech or the Commission table. Brochures are available at the Library.

8. Adjournment

Dr. Barry made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Petrini seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk