



# 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, May 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners In Attendance: Chris Balogh, Bryan Barry, Joe Petrini, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Annmarie McConville, Pat Delaney

Commissioners Absent: Kathleen Sullivan, Theresa Nevin, Eileen Carpinella

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

1. Review Minutes of April 11, 2011

**Dr. Barry made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11<sup>th</sup>, following a discussion on what to charge for tickets to the Fall Fling. Rosalie Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

The discussion included what to charge for tickets, and ways to encourage attendees to bring canned goods for the Town's food bank. Suggestions included a special raffle for those contributing canned goods or extra tickets for the regular raffle. There was also discussion on ways to get more people dancing. Perhaps we can come up with some ideas Dr. Barry thinks we can get some volunteers to come in for the night from Quinnipiac physical therapy or other health specialties to get people moving. Ms. Cavanaugh said we have to let the disc jockey know a few of the things we would like him to do.

There was discussion regarding the letter to be sent to surrounding towns asking them if they are interested in holding an event for the over 21 disabled. Ms. Cavanaugh feels people from other towns should pay more. Ms. McConville felt we should wait to hear how other towns respond to the letter.

2. Correspondence

Letter to chamber members thanking them for the donation of books to the Hamden Education Association – second graders Community Readers Day on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh had nothing to report

4. ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri's Report

Mr. Gualtieri received a complaint regarding the sidewalks on Dixwell Avenue, which he submitted to the Mayor's office. Also, someone was looking for a crosswalk on Dixwell Avenue near Brueger's, which would not work. People would have to cross at Skiff Street.

5. Committee Reports

Dr. Barry introduced Paula Butler of Ryan Oil who is interested in getting involved with the Commission and getting us some financial support to run our events. Ms. Butler feels that what the Commission does is great, and liked the 2009 awards the Commission presented at the Chamber Dinner.

Ms. Butler met Dr. Barry which prompted the conversation with with him. Her great uncle was a child born late in life to her great grandmother. He had little schooling and was hard of hearing. There were very limited resources for him. He helped raise her and her siblings. She feels the community should be involved, and could donate raffle prizes, food, etc. She feels it is good business for the community and will help and encourage everyone involved.

Ms. Cavanaugh mentioned a program that the New Haven Ballet has that mentors special needs individuals and they perform at the Ballet's recital.

Dr. Barry said for the next fall dance, perhaps some we could have leis for each person or other types of decorations. Mr. Petrini suggested Christmas in July. A Halloween theme was also mentioned. Ms. Delaney mentioned that sponsorship of a bus for a trip to a New Britain Rock Cats baseball game. A harbor cruise was also discussed. Ms. Tobin will check with Town Attorney Gruen regarding co-sponsorship by Ryan Oil. September and November dances were mentioned. February was ruled out because of potential weather problems. October would work and it could be a Halloween Party with prizes for best costumes, etc.

Ms. Delaney said mentioned it has been five years since the first survey went out.

There was discussion on the success of the film festival. The Commission purchased the films that were shown and presented them to Mr. Gualtieri for the Library.

6. Old Business

Memorial Day Parade

Commissioners will march and Dr. Barry will drive his car. The Aces School on River Road in North Haven will march with the Commission.

There was discussion on a flyer going into Hamden Chamber mailings asking businesses to support the efforts of the Commission.

7. New Business

Mr. Petrini felt it would be a good idea to invite some of the Hamden group home managers to come to a meeting so that we can brainstorm with them. He prepared a rough draft of a letter. They invitation would be for the September meeting.

8. Adjournment

**Dr. Barry made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Delaney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk