



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, June 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Kathleen Sullivan, Pat Delaney, Barbara Brandon, Bryan Barry, Annmarie McConville, Eileen Carpinella

Commissioners Excused: Chris Balogh, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Aldo Dwyer

Dr. Barry called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Review Minutes of May 14, 2012

Ms. Delaney made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2012. Ms. Brandon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

3. Chairman's Report

Dr. Barry said we had a really nice Breakfast Before Hours at the Government Center with the Hamden Chamber of Commerce. Although it was not as well as attended as we hoped, Dr. Barry said some of the Commissioners were in attendance, and he spoke to the attendees about what our Commission does. He brought in bagels and coffee at a cost of \$66.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to reimburse Dr. Barry the \$66. Ms. McConville seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Dr. Barry said he is hosting a Business After hours on Wednesday, June 13th from 5:30 p.m. to about 10:00 p.m. At this event there will be a ribbon cutting for his office. They will also have a dunk tank and Ms. Connecticut will be dunked at a cost of \$5 for three throws. The proceeds will go to the Connecticut Food Bank. They will have an outdoor chair massage, and catering will be by Eli's. He is hoping for good weather!

4. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Mr. Marchand said he has spoken in the past about the all abilities playground at Town Center Park. This is coming to fruition. The Town will use Local Capital Improvement Project (LoCIP) funding. Last week, the Town's grants administrator, purchasing agent and mayor's office met. The request for proposals (RFP) will go out this week. A mandatory walk through for prospective bidders will be held on July 2nd at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners are more than welcome to attend. Proposals are required by July 27th, interviews will be held in August, build out will be in the fall and winter, and the grand opening in the spring. The Town is talking about some kind of activity for the opening. Ms. Brandon mentioned Hanna's playground which has been a success. Ms. McConville mentioned the Challenger Field. Ms. Delaney said Challenger Field is being used two nights a week for Special Olympics team practice.

Mr. Marchand said he has had no compliance complaints since our previous meeting and had no news to report on previous complaints.

Mr. Marchand did some research on Brooksvale because of last month's discussion on accessible restrooms. The Veterans building bathrooms are accessible, but if the Veterans Building is closed, the only other rest rooms are at the top of the hill. One of the items the Town is talking about is a new animal barn at Brooksvale. Building codes and ADA do not require bathrooms for an animal barn. If they put in an office they would have to put in bathrooms, but because there is no sewer, the cost might be prohibitive. Mr. Marchand said the requirement is if you have two bathrooms, one must be ADA compliant.

Ongoing project – The Town is required to continue working on the ADA self evaluation plan. This is a review of all town properties, buildings and parks, etc. Mr. Marchand has been to all the parks in Town, and the big parks have the required facilities, but the smaller parks do not. Mr. Marchand plans to talk to the Mayor's Office, and perhaps get to work on bringing the self evaluations up to date.

When Mr. Marchand was the grants administrator, he wrote the grant application for the historic properties grant for the Memorial Town Hall. One of the challenges was making the building accessible, because the organization didn't like the ramp that was installed at the Whitney Avenue side of the building.

5. Committee Reports

Ms. Delaney had information on the Carousel at Lighthouse Park. It is not handicapped accessible. Ms. Brandon said as a Commission, she feels that you have to be able to accommodate everyone. Dr. Barry agreed.

Ms. Delaney is waiting for a call back from a gentleman who runs programs in New Haven. They have kayak/canoe trips that are handicapped accessible. Mr. Marchand is aware of these and said they launch from East Rock Park right into the River. Ms. Delaney will have information at next month's meeting.

Ms. McConville brought up the letter to other communities regarding their activities. Ms. Tobin will put this in front of Mayor Jackson again. She will also check with Curt Leng regarding the Commission's Facebook page.

Ms. McConville brought up the challenger league for over 21 disabled. We would have to have someone to run it. Ms. Delaney suggested the group home provider would have to start something, or we could talk to Dave DeMartino in Parks & Recreation for ideas.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Barbara Brandon said she has been in Connecticut for over 30 years and in this field for that same time. She has taken on the advocacy and education piece. She represents Acord, a small grass roots creative agency. Her goal for herself and this Commission would be to have a forum that could bring a number of people together with parents of both older and younger children that are disabled. These would be educational and creative forums. Her position with Acord is to create jobs for people with disabilities, either jobs that exist, or to carve out a job to meet the needs of a client, including volunteer positions to prepare them for paid positions. She is willing to follow up on any leads. Ms. Brandon urged Commissioners to talk to friends and neighbors and make it part of what you do. Ms. Brandon can provide reasonable accommodations to allow a disabled person to work alongside a person that is not disabled. Ms. Carpinella likes the idea of sponsoring a forum that would include organizations inside and outside of Hamden to discuss needs. We can continue this conversation about bringing people together.

Linda and Tom McCue were in attendance. Ms. McCue said she wanted to find out what the Commission does and in what ways she might participate. Ms. McConville told them they would be welcome at our meetings, and that the next meeting will be held on the second Monday in July. This Commission does not meet in August. Ms. McCue has had problems with some of the stores in Hamden not being accessible.

Ms. Delaney suggested we think about businesses in Town that are handicapped friendly. Ms. Brandon said we should issue a challenge and see what businesses might rise to the occasion.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Delaney made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Barry seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk