



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, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Barbara Brandon, Bryan Barry, Annmarie McConville, Eileen Carpinella, Kathleen Sullivan, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Dwyer

Commissioners Absent: Pat Delaney

Others in Attendance: ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri, Guest Mark DuPont, Louise VanOrback and her son Mark

Mr. Balogh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review Minutes of 11-14-2011

Dr. Barry made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2011. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Correspondence

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh reported a balance of \$2044.94 in the Commission's gift fund.

Ms. Tobin mentioned that Ms. Delaney is still owed \$200 for videos purchased.

Mr. Balogh received correspondence from HHS, offering the Commission an opportunity to advertise in their Venture year book. He mentioned the cost, including \$30 for 1/8th page.

Discussion – Ms. Brandon was drawn to this group because of marketing and PR possibilities. Any way you can get your name out there would be of help to this Commission.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to place a 1/8 page ad in the year book. Ms. Brandon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The Commission will place an ad with the town seal and the Commission name, good luck to the class of 2012, we are here to serve your needs and the Mr. Balogh's Office phone number.

4. ADA Coordinator Bob Gualtieri's Report

Mr. Gualtieri announced that he is retiring February 3rd. Everyone wished him well.

5. Committee Reports

Ms. McConville said we should make a donation to the Hamden/New Haven Special Olympics.

Commissioners discussed some kind of commendation for Mr. Gualtieri on his retirement.

There was discussion on a bus trip to a ball game for the over 21 disabled. Ms. Carpinella suggested we touch base with Hamden Adult Education. They run many bus trips and perhaps they would help us in the future. Perhaps they can help us get the word out and publish notice in Adult Ed booklet. We might be able to limit this to Hamden residents. There was discussion on mailing information to group homes with a few details regarding a trip to a ball game to determine if there is interest.

Mr. McConville suggested a retirement card be sent to Fran Rabinowitz because she was so helpful and allowed the Commission to use the Middle School for the dances..

There was discussion on sending a letter to surrounding towns to determine what type of activities they have for over 21 disabled, and suggesting that if each community held one activity, there would be plenty to do for this population.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Dr. Barry feels the Commission should have a Facebook page. It could be set up for people to visit, Commissioners to communicate, etc. The Commission's events could be posted. He will contact Curt Leng before proceeding. Commissioners felt this was a great idea.

Commissioners gave Dr. Barry their email addresses so they can receive emails from the Chamber of Commerce. The Commission is a member. Ms. Brandon asked what the access to the Chamber. Dr. Barry replied all access. He mentioned that there is a Business Before Hours at Dr.'s office tomorrow morning at 8:30. Dr. is located at 2447 Whitney Avenue.

There was discussion on Commissioners having business cards. It would be a generic card and if a Commissioner wanted to hand one out, they could write their name and phone number on the back. There was discussion on using a free business card service on line. There would be a town logo on the business card.

Ms. McConville mentioned a program called Play with Grace, held at St. St. Peters and James Episcopal Church. Her son was in a performance there, and she said she felt this was the best thing she saw all year. The New Haven Ballet's Share a Dance program in which ballet students will take one or two disabled students and train them, was also mentioned. These students then become their opening act.

Mr. Carpinella asked if perhaps we could provide some scholarship aid for someone in the over 21 disabled population. She also wondered if in the future, this group could host a Breakfast Before Hours. Ms. Tobin suggested it could be held in the third floor conference room.

Ms. Cavanaugh made a motion that the Commissioners acquire business cards. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. McConville made a motion that the Commission donate \$100 to the Hamden North Haven Special Olympics. Ms. Brandon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Louise VanOrback and her son Mark were guests at tonight's meeting. Mark is an eagle scout candidate from Troop 610. One of the requirements is that Mark attend a Town meeting.

8. Adjournment

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

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk