



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, September 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Eileen Carpinella, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Aldo Dwyer, Annmarie McConville, Mark DuPont
Commissioners Excused: Pat Delaney, Bryan Barry
Others in Attendance: ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Balogh called the meeting to order at 7:06.

2. Review Minutes of July 15, 2013

Ms. Carpinella made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15th. Ms. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh had nothing to report.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Mr. Marchand reported that there were no new formal ADA complaints. Someone did report to the Help Desk, about weeds blocking a sidewalk near Town owned property, and the Town is addressing that. Mr. Marchand said a ribbon cutting was held for the new all abilities playground Josh's Jungle. It was well attended, and the playground is heavily used. Mr. Marchand said there were eight cars parked there this evening.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked if ADA requirements are the same throughout the state. Mr. Marchand said all towns go by the State regulations, and the State complies with the Federal regulations. Ms. Cavanaugh went to a party at a condo in Branford after having foot surgery. She was in a wheelchair. There were five steps to the landing, five more steps to another landing, then another

step to get in the door. She had to be carried up the stairs. Mr. Marchand responded that it depends on when the condo was built, and whether or not there were complaints. If the condo association does renovations or an expansion, 20-30% of the funding has to go to ADA requirements. The condominium is a private association, and if there was a complaint by a resident, they might make the required changes, or they might make the case that they could not make a reasonable accommodation to that room.

The electronic doors at the two branch libraries where the ramps were installed have been repaired and are now in working order.

Mr. Marchand visited the renovated Town Hall and said the ADA requirements have been met there.

There was discussion on the new Town Hall and the planned usage.

6. Old Business

Ms. McConville incurred expenses in the amount of \$30.37 for planning the bus trip to the ball game. She has no receipt for \$13 of the expenses. Ms. McConville passed around a sheet for commissioners to sign approving reimbursement of these expenses. The bus trip was canceled due to lack of response. A report on the process was submitted by Ms. Delaney, via Mr. Delaney.

Mr. Balogh suggested perhaps we should try to get tickets to a Quinnipiac basketball game. Food is available at the arena. Ms. Cavanaugh said she has a contact with someone at Quinnipiac and will reach out for tickets and report back to the commission. Perhaps we can provide tickets and a snack.

Mr. Balogh thanked Ms. Delaney, Ms. McConville and Ms. Cavanaugh for the work they did in planning the bus trip.

7. New Business

Autumn Fling – Ms. McConville will talk to Mr. DeMartino about a date in October, probably October 25th or the following week November 1st. Mr. Dupont suggested that we check North Haven's events to avoid a conflict. Attendees have to be preregistered and prepaid, \$5 for residents and \$10 for non residents. It was decided to have a costume party again this year.

Mr. Dupont will prepare a questionnaire to have available at the dance, that will help with event planning. It will have questions regarding interests, time frames, etc. Mr. Dupont also mentioned the possibility of the commission having a Facebook Page.

There was discussion on ball teams. Ms. McConville wondered if the High School or the Middle School have unified teams. The Challenger League was also mentioned.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Cavanaugh made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The commission's next meeting is Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

