

THE HAMDEN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES held a Regular Meeting on June 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Friends Room, Miller Library Complex. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Chris Balogh, Eileen Carpinella, Marc Dupont, Rachel Skolnick Dobin, Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Dwyer, Pat Delaney

Commissioners Excused: Bryan Barry, Annmarie McConville

1. Call to Order

Mr. Balogh called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of May 11, 2015

Mr. Dupont made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 meeting. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Correspondence

Mr. Balogh had no correspondence.

Mr. Dupont sent the letter asking for nominations for the disability friendly business award to the Hamden Patch for publication. Ms. Carpinella said she saw the letter in the Hamden Chamber newsletter. No responses have been received to date.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr. Balogh said the Memorial Day Parade went well. The Special Olympics group marched behind the commission and several people rode in Dr. Barry's convertible. There was further discussion about the parade. Dr. Barry discovered that our banner has been lost. The Commission decided that a new banner should be purchased. **Ms. Carpinella made a motion that the Commission purchase a new banner for use at events. Ms. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.** Mr. Balogh will speak with Dr. Barry about this.

5. ADA Coordinator's Report

Mr. Marchand reported that the capacity issue at the Middle School was reviewed and it turns out not to be a problem for the dances. The attendance could actually be twice what we had at the last event.

Regarding access to the Hamden High School Pool, The side door which would allow the disabled to access the pool without using stairs, has to be locked because it allows access to other areas of the School. Mark recently had his mother in a wheelchair and experienced the difficulties that presented. He agreed that an accommodation has to be made. Mr. Marchand called the ADA Regional Office in Boston for information. The rear entrance to the building is grandfathered and does not require alteration. Access information must be posted on the school website and on event websites and posted at the doors. A monitoring system is being investigated. Another suggestion would be to have the door unlocked and monitored 1/2 hour before each event. Posting the number of the maintenance person on duty was not feasible. Mark said they will do a better job of it. Mr. Marchand will keep the Commission posted.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Ms. Delaney mentioned that the bocci courts have been removed at the Keefe Center. Mr. Marchand

said they used to have 2-3. Mr. Marchand said they have not been there for at least the ten years that he has been there. Ms. Tobin will mention bocci courts at the next Town Center Park meeting.

Ms. Delaney distributed information on attendance at a Blue Fish game including a picnic. It was decided that the Commission sponsor this event on July 26th with a rain date of August 30th at no cost to disabled attendees, \$30 for adults, \$25 for kids under 12, and free for kids 3 and under. Ms. Delaney will make the suggested changes to the registration form and email it to commissioners for review.

Ms. Delaney announced that there is a balance of \$2,991.74 in the Commission's account after the donation to the Hamden/New Haven Special Olympics Team and most of the expenses for the Spring Fling.

Ms. Carpinella suggested that the Commission sponsor two additional events this year – an ice cream social in late summer and the Sprout Film Festival in the fall. Commissioners agreed.

Adjournment

Ms. Carpinella made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dupont seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk