



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

INFORMAL NOTES: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held an informal session on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the *Main Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center*. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Bryan Barry, Mark Dupont, Annmarie McConville, Rachel Dobin
Commissioners Excused: Eileen Carpinella, Pat Delaney
Absent: Rosalie Cavanaugh, Jon Dwyer

A quorum was not available.

The first item discussed was the fact that when the Library was moving certain areas they disposed of the Sprout Films that the Commission had purchased for \$200. The commissioners were disappointed that they were not consulted since there had been some talk about an event showing these films. There was discussion on whether or not to replace these films and whether such an event could be successful. Ms. Carpinella's email mentioned a possible grant through which her organization could purchase the films and hold them for safekeeping.

Ms. McConville reported that the October dance went very well. Commissioners had their assignments which really helped. Ms. Dobin filled in for Ms. Delaney picking up the cake. Mr. Balough brought the water, but we will have to get someone else to do that since he is no longer on the Commission due to his move to Cheshire. Mr. Dupont remarked that his friend Lucien helped out and will help at the next dance. He also mentioned a young woman volunteer who really took time to talk to the attendees.

No one was able to report on the funds collected, but Dr. Barry said although the attendance was not as great as at some of the previous dances, it was good.

Mr. Dupont said some Hamden High School students developed an application to help disabled people find transportation. He suggested we honor them in some way. He felt it would be a good idea to invite one or more of the students to attend our meeting and explain what they did.

There was discussion on participating in the Memorial Day Parade. The commission will discuss this again when we have more commissioners in attendance. Also at the February meeting we will have an election of officers.

Ms. Tobin distributed information from the Town Clerk and Town Attorney. Each commission has been asked to develop a policy regarding remote participation at meetings.

Ms. Dobin brought up an event she attended recently at Bounce U in North Branford, and mentioned that it might be a good event for the commission to host for adult disabled. The event was a sensory bounce, where there are no distractions. Lights are dimmed, music is soft, etc. Each participant has a staff person. They can accommodate about 30 per session.

Ms. McConville mentioned that next Tuesday at 4:30, Amity Bowling is having an event for disabled adults. The cost is \$3 per person.

There was discussion on getting email addresses for group homes and for disabled people living at home, in order to get information out quickly.

All other business of the commission was postponed to the February meeting.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk