



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTES: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the *Main Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center*. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Dupont, Dr. Barry, Ms. McConville, Ms. Delaney, Ms. Carpinella, Ms. Cavanaugh, Mr. Dwyer

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Dobin

Others in Attendance: SCSU Journalism Student Andreas Ylism, ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Dr. Barry called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of January 11, 2015

Informal notes were taken at the January 11th meeting because a quorum was not available

3. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

4. Chairman's Report

Dr. Barry mentioned a flower shop/greenhouse in Guilford that is growing a rare rose and bottling the scent to sell, with the profits going to the Autism Society. They hire adults with autism to work in the greenhouse. The program is called Roses for Autism. The greenhouse is located on Route 1.

Ms. Carpinella mentioned that some of the high school students at Aces are making flower arrangements out of paper and selling them. She said they are beautiful and can hardly be distinguished from real flowers.

5. ADA Coordinator Chris Marchand's Report

Mr. Marchand has had some issues regarding no ADA compliance at the sidewalks, which he is working on. There was discussion on the waiting list for sidewalk repairs. Mr. Marchand is looking at the needs at Goodrich Street.

He also has an issue of a Veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan with a service dog. He is an undergraduate student and went to Town Walk to apply for an apartment. Town Walk has a policy of not renting to college students, which has been in place for about ten years. They are not willing to make an exception, and although a disabled veteran is a protected class, undergraduate students are not according to the Fair Housing Center. They are looking at using the approach of his disabled veteran status.

6. Committee Reports

There was discussion on purchasing some of the SPROUT films again for a film festival. The Commission had spent between \$200 and \$300 to purchase films that were stored in the Library. During the Library renovations, these films were discarded, without anyone contacting the Commission. Ms. Carpinella tried to get a grant to purchase some of the films, which she was willing to store at her office. She put an artist's name as the person who would run the program. The grant was denied because it was felt that the person that would be running the program was not qualified. There was further discussion, including determining if there was any interest in these films.

Pam Okerblom with the State of Connecticut publishes a newsletter regarding what various towns are doing for the disabled. Mr. Dupont will send the information out to the Commissioners. This Commission might want to list its activities on the newsletter.

Ms. McConville said it is time to get a date for the Spring Fling. April 29, May 6 or May 13th were mentioned. April 29th is the preferred date. Ms. McConville will contact Mr. DeMartino in the recreation department to see what is available. Ms. McConville mentioned that Mr. Balogh used to bring the water, and we need someone to do that now that he has moved out of Town. Dr. Barry will pick up the water and the soda. Ms. Dobin will take care of the cake if Ms. Delaney can't (she did it for the fall fling). Ms. Cavanaugh will take care of the pizza, and Ms. McConville will take care of the raffle.

Ms. Delaney made a motion to donate \$500 to the Hamden Special Olympics. Ms. Carpinella seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Delaney mentioned that commissioners should start thinking about a business that is disability friendly for the October awards dinner.

7. Old Business

**8. New Business
Election of Officers**

Dr. Barry said it is time to elect new officers of the Commission.

Ms. Delaney nominated Dr. Barry to serve as chairman. Ms. McConville seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Delaney nominated Ms. Cavanaugh to serve as Co Chair. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Ms. Carpinella nominated Ms. Delaney to serve as Treasurer. Ms. Cavanaugh seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

There was discussion on participation in the Memorial Day Parade. Commissioners agreed to march/ride. Special Olympians and others will be invited to march with the Commission. There is no information available on how many cars/trucks will be involved. Dr. Barry will look into purchasing a new banner.

9. Adjourment

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

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk