



JUSTIN ELICKER
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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BILLY HUANG
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities - Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

April 11, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

- Present:** Billy Huang (Chair), Tricia Palluzzi, Grisel Aguilar, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Linda McDonough, Arya Singh, Sally Esposito, Annie Harper
- Absent:** Nina Silva
- Staff:** Gretchen Knauff
- Guests:** None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair B. Huang at 6:18 PM.

II. Approval of March 14, 2022 Minutes

A decision was made to table approval of March minutes until next the Commission meeting.

III. Department report

- \$20,000 for accommodations (interpreters) was put in the proposed Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities budget. Approval by Board of Alders coming up – May/June.
- an assistive technology visit for Jaigantic Studios is planned.
- Currently Jaigantic in discussion with city re. their plans – 3 sound stages to start with. Plan to have solar on roof, also buying Phoenix press which has a windmill.
- will be meeting with City plan re. concerns about reduced # of parking spaces at new developments around the city. Need to guarantee spaces for accessibility purposes. Also want to be sure that inclusionary zoning process sets aside accessible units.
- Has sent language for ordinance updates. Mayor approved the language. Waiting for legislative liaison for Board of Alders.

IV: Continue 2022 planning:

- Communication accessibility: Last time looked at lack of adequate resources for people who are deaf and hard of hearing (DHOH). Next steps: work with CMHC advocates and others to create a one-page memo to send to the Mayor. R. Tousey-Ayers – pre-covid there was a group of Yale employees/students advocating for better accommodations for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. She will look them up to see if the group still exists. Also the school system has lots of experience – we could find out if they have a lead person. G. Knauff attended symposium on disabilities put on at Yale last week. Is connecting with students who organized that. A. Singh used to be on board of DEFY and will find out if there are any students who are DHOH.
- Elevators - S. Esposito – we could meet with Alder Sabin who is pushing for more downtown high rises, to talk with him about our concerns about elevators, parking. (e.g. can we require a

building owner to have an elevator contract). Get developers to fund a database to be able to record elevator issues? Send him brief letter mentioning recent New Haven Independent (NHI) article. S. Esposito mentions that we should also consider lifts in discussions about elevators. G. Knauff will find out how many lifts in New Haven.

V. Old Business

- Education about elevator ordinance: L. McDonough will look into possibility of education in schools. Will know more after Alders meeting in May. G. Aguilar – could link with the Q House, Cornell Scott. Eg NAMI had table to educate people about mental health. We should do something similar to educate residents about elevators. B. Huang – need to identify key contact people at places such as Q House, Bella Vista, etc. S. Esposito – maybe we could get a Summer Youth at Work student to work on this – do research, post flyers. And could start with the alder who lives at Bella Vista. G. Knauff – Bella Vista not as urgent because each floor has more than one elevator. Maybe better to go to building with only 1 or 2.
- Jaigantic – have meeting next Friday – will plan assistive technology visit.
- Voting experience memo to Registrars of Voters – Registrars cannot meet with Commissioners until the complaint is resolved.
- Outreach to CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) – T. Paluzzi suggests contacting them in July.
- Ordinance language changes– mayor ok with it, just need to do the needed paperwork to get it to the alders.
- L. McDonough raises issue of summer camps – to ensure accessibility. Special Ed had reached out to disability commission to get traction with Parks and Rec. We should invite someone from youth and recreation and community services administration (which oversees Youth and recreation). B. Huang suggests taking this idea through the planning process.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.