



TONI N. HARP
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

City Hall 4th Second Floor Meeting Room II

January 8, 2018

Present: Sally Esposito, Billy Huang, Kurtis Kearney, Tricia Palluzzi, Matthew Ranelli and Robin Tousey-Ayers

Staff: Michelle Duprey

Absent: Jenifer Blemings, Iva Long, Benjamin Nadolsky, Maria Rivera, Paula Pernal and Jack Tsai

Meeting called to order at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes

The Commission members reviewed the November Minutes. Kurt moved to approve the November Minutes and Tricia seconded. The November Minutes were approved. Sally, Matt & Iva abstained.

Chairpersons Report

Robin discussed her presentation last month to a group of students at UNH on the Commission, Michelle's Department and all the resources available at Yale.

Department Report

Michelle stated that the State budget continues to be a problem. She stated that a public hearing took place on Medicare Reimbursement for Seniors & Disabled, but she is not aware of its outcome. Michelle stated that the Federal Bill is in front of the House of Representatives. She stated that the Bill requires that people with disabilities who wish to file an ADA claim against a facility like a store or a restaurant, to notify the owner of the facility in writing and make specific reference to the ADA violation(s). Michelle stated that this Bill would compel people with disabilities to seek legal advice. Michelle and Matt discussed several sections of the Federal Bill that are either unsettled or rescinded and their ramifications.

Old Business

Billy updated the Commission about his Project at Bella Vista. He mentioned that several other students are assisting, along with Kurtis, to design a survey and scope of an interview to be used on Bella Vista residents in order to finding out what kind of problems exist within their community.

Sally and Robin discussed that the letter to Michael Pinto from the Department of Transportation, Traffic & Parking and the DOT concerning its new rail service between New Haven and Hartford/Springfield which will be in addition to Amtrak. Both letters are ready to be mailed. Robin will follow-up and mail the letters.

New Business

Michelle stated that she has been receiving calls/complaints regarding the last snow storm and referred them to the emergency system. She stated that the City is still receiving these calls/complaints at this time. Michelle will invite Doug Houslauden to attend the February Commission meeting.

Other Business

None

Public Comment/Announcements

Next meeting February 12, 2018.

Sally made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kurtis seconded the motion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was approved unanimously at 7:00 p.m.