



TONI N. HARP
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COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

City Hall 2nd Meeting Room II

December 12, 2016

Present: Sally Esposito (via telephone), Kurtis Kearney, Iva Long, Benjamin Nadolsky, Tricia Palluzzi, Matthew Ranelli (via telephone), Robin Tousey-Ayers and Jack Tsai

Staff: Michelle Duprey

Absent: Jenifer Blemings, Maria Rivera and Paula Pernal

Guest: Zack
Douglas D. Martin

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes

The Commission members reviewed the November Minutes. Sally suggested that the words “the extremes of New Haven” should be replaced with “Brookside to Fair Haven Heights” on the bottom of Page 3.

Kurtis moved to approve the November Minutes and Jack seconded. Sally, Iva, and Jack abstained from voting. The November Minutes were approved as amended.

Chairperson’s Report

Robin stated that through her work she is constantly checking on resources that might be helpful to the Commission and distributes them to the group. Robin stated that there is a piece in the New Haven Register today about a professor at Southern Connecticut State University that is interested in addressing the idea of people with invisible disabilities. She will distribute the article to the Commission members after the meeting.

Department Report

Michelle stated that Melissa Marshal has been selected the Chair of the Council on Developmental Disabilities. Michelle stated that this Council advises state agencies serving people with developmental disabilities as well as people with disabilities in general.

Old Business

Robin summarized the presentation from Mr. Bobby Doyle last month relative to the 911 calls & complaints concerning building elevators that the Commission has been discussing. She also summarized the presentation from Doug Hausladen of the City's Transportation, Traffic & Parking concerning the Transportation Study that is underway with a 16-month schedule.

Sally suggested that the Commission follow-up with Mr. Doyle. Michelle mentioned that the meeting with Corporation Counsel, Mr. Doyle and Raphael Ramos (from LCI) and herself has not taken place yet. Michelle will get back to the Commission after the meeting. Sally suggested inviting Ald. Salvatore DeCola to the meeting. Tricia will follow-up with Bobby Doyle.

Matt suggested a thank you letter to the Alders that were involved with the elevator ordinance such as Santiago & DeCola. Sally suggested an acknowledgment to Santiago and perhaps Ald. Marchand. Sally stated that she will work on drafting letters to the Alders and forward them to Robin for editing.

Dennis D. Martin stated that he will meet with Doug Hausladen this week on buses and bicycles. Sally will review the Minutes and get in touch with Doug Hausladen.

Robin mentioned the previous meetings with Yale New Haven Hospital concerning universal design (bed management), accessibility, and website. Robin suggested that the Commission invite Yale New Haven Hospital back to a February or March Commission meeting. Robin asked Michelle to get in touch with Ms. Stuart and Sally to review the website for any changes.

Robin stated that Matt was responsible for the 2017 Nomination Committee for the Commission. Matt nominated the following Slate for 2017: Robin Tousey-Ayers as Chair, Tricia Palluzzi as Vice-Chair and Matthew Ranelli as Secretary. Sally made a motion to approve the Slate for 2017. Kurtis seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Slate for 2017 was approved unanimously.

Robin stated that Michelle made a change to the proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2017. Kurtis made a motion to approved the Schedule of Meetings for 2017 as revised. Iva seconded the motion. The Schedule of Meetings for 2017 as revised was approved unanimously.

New Business

None.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment/Announcements

Mr. Douglas D. Martin stated that he is very concerned about senior citizens riding the New Haven buses. Mr. Martin has written a book, "Riding the New Haven Buses, How Far Can You Go?". He organized a Club called, "Dennis' Old Fashioned Bus Trips" that operates at Bella Vista mainly for seniors and people with disabilities. Mr. Martin stated that he usually gets access to the venue of an event ahead of time so that he may obtain keys or access codes for elevators for the disabled or elderly on the day of the event. He has four (4) members of his group/club. He stated that his trips are low-cost. Mr. Martin stated that he encounters problems with some venues such as Gillette Castle and Essex Steam Train. He stated that he also sits on the Agency for the Aging and he is joining the Lions Club in January. Mr. Martin stated that he will be meeting with Mr. Hausladen concerning taking buses in New Haven.

Robin stated that the next meeting is January 9, 2017.

Tricia made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kurtis seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 7:00 p.m.