



TONI N. HARP
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes

City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room

March 9, 2015

Present: Jenifer Blemings, Sally Esposito, Sara Hungerford, Iva Long, Tricia Palluzzi, Matthew Ranelli, Lisa Spruill, Robin Tousey-Ayers, and Jack Tsai

Staff: Michelle Duprey and Paula Pernal

Absent: Maria Rivera

Meeting called to order at 5:24 p.m.

Minutes

Jennifer made a motion to accept the November minutes. Tricia seconded the motion. The November minutes were unanimously approved. Jack made a motion to accept the December minutes. Jenifer seconded the motion. Sally and new members abstained from voting. The December minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report

The chairperson has nothing significant to report this month.

Department Report

An update of department activities was provided. The Mayor's Budget is available on the City's website. The department budget workshop is on March 31, 2015 in the evening.

The State budget has voluminous cuts to persons with disabilities and mental health. These cuts were made before the State realized it needed \$60m. Michelle will send letters to the State Appropriations Committee concerning these cuts; particularly those cuts in services & equipment pertaining to Independent Living, DDS & DSS.

Old Business

The 2014 Annual Report was discussed. One member was assigned a strategic area of the 2014 Annual Report to update and present at the meeting with Board of Alders - date to be determined.

Michelle will follow-up with the Department of Parks & Recreation about the mobi-mats for the beach sand at Lighthouse Park.

Matt presented a draft Amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Section 12 ½-43.2. – Handicap, adding language that addresses the failure to properly maintain or timely repair elevators in multifamily housing. These changes give the department of Livable City Initiative (LCI) the authority to issue fines to landlords/owners that fail to comply with elevator maintenance and repair. It was recommended that members send suggestions and comments to Matt for final draft. Matt will present the Amendment to the Alders for support & sponsorship.

Michelle distributed a letter that she drafted to Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), and a document previously authored entitled, “Access Issues for Individuals with Functional Limitations and YNHH” for members to review and discuss. The letter to YNHH requests a meeting on May 11, 2015 with YNHH to discuss accessibility at YNHH; particularly in the renovated areas at the Saint Raphael campus. Sally made a motion to accept the letter to YNHH. Jenifer seconded the letter to YNHH. The letter to YNHH is approved unanimously. One member was assigned an access issue to update and present a question at the YNHH meeting.

New Business

Robin attended a forum at Center for Independent Living in West Haven.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment/Announcements

None.

Iva made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robin seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 6:59 p.m.