



JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.  
*Mayor*

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
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*Promoting*  
 **Accessibility**  
*In New Haven*

DAVID HICKS  
*Chairperson*

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
City Hall 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
**October 7, 2013**

Present: Jenifer Blemings, David Hicks, Matthew Ranelli, Robin Tousey-Ayers and Jack Tsai

Staff: Michelle Duprey, Paula Pernal

Absent: Cecile Brodsky, Christopher Hicks, and Maria Rivera

Meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m.

Matthew is present via telephone.

**Minutes**

David asked the commissioners to review the June minutes.

Robin made amendments.

David made a motion to accept the June minutes as amended.

Robin seconded the motion.

June minutes are approved unanimously as amended.

**Chairman's Report**

David is seeking volunteers for President.

David discusses the new Special Parking Permit Program as part of the phasing-out of "the lifetime" handicap placards issued by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.

## **Department Report**

Michelle states that she has completed the Transition Report for her Department.

Michelle mentions that a lot of activity has begun for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA in July 2015. She states that the Commission should begin to plan events and activities in December in order to add funding to her budget next spring. David agrees that Commission should begin to plan early with its participation in the ADA Anniversary. Michelle suggests partnering with other organizations to promote community inclusion. Michelle will send out letters to organizations to invite them to the December meeting.

Michelle states she participated in an interview with “Its Our Story.org” on disability rights movement in Connecticut.

Michelle mentions that she is working on Board of Education matters that require more of her time.

## **Old Business**

David asks Robin if she would like to develop the election slate. Robin agrees to work on the slate construction.

## **New Business**

Michelle distributed a draft Schedule for meetings during 2014. A discussion took place about the dates of the Schedule. David suggested changing November 10 to November 3.

David made a motion to accept the Schedule for 2014 meetings.

Matthew seconded the motion.

Schedule for 2014 meetings are approved unanimously as amended.

David mentions that the Commission in Danbury had given a Disability Awareness Award of 2011 to the Carousel that occupies space in the local Mall. David states that presenting businesses with awards brings attention to the issues in the disability community. He states that it would give the Commission a public profile. Jenifer states that she loves the idea of promoting places that are doing the right thing. A discussion took place

concerning issuance of awards to businesses that meet the ADA standards versus go above and beyond the ADA standards. Michelle suggests rolling this idea out in July 2015, on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ADA—giving the Commission time to plan. Jack suggests that businesses apply for the award. Matthew states that it should be issued to businesses that go above and beyond and that stand out. Matt states that businesses should be nominated by a Committee. Michelle states that she will develop a nomination form for disability friendly businesses after January. Robin mentions that the awards should include events as well as places, such as the Road Race or a play. David states that the awards do not have to be limited to businesses.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Public Comment/Announcements**

Robin mentions that Brad Broth is receiving an award on Sunday from the Connecticut Dance Association for his performance in the New Haven Ballet (spring performance).

David made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Robin seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 6:30 p.m.