



JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room
September 10, 2012

- Present: Cecile Brodsky, Dana Canevari, David Hicks, Robin Tousey-Ayers
- Excused Absence: Matthew Ranelli, Jack Tsai
- Staff: Michelle Duprey, Paula Pernal
- Guest: Jennifer Blemings, Christopher Hicks

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

Minutes

David asked the commission members to review the August minutes.
David asked the commission members if they wish to make any amendments to the August minutes.
There were no changes.
David made a motion to accept the August minutes.
Dana seconded the motion.
August minutes approved unanimously.
Jennifer Blemings & Christopher Hicks abstained from voting as they are not commission members.

David asked Michelle about absentee voting. Michelle stated that Matt corrected them. They both agreed with Matt previously that you must be present to vote.

Chairman's Report

David distributes a draft letter that he composed to the Board of Alderman for review and edit by the Commission members. David asks the commission members if they had seen the document entitled, "New Haven Works" distributed by Michelle. Very few commission members responded that they had not seen this document. David stated that the City of New Haven has created a group that is looking into employment possibilities for all of New Haven. David stated that this working group is proposing a governmental body for this initiative that includes people from all areas of the City that relates to employment. They published this document about the Jobs Pipeline Working Group. David stated that after reading it several times, he saw no mention of disability at all. David suggests that the Commission become involved and drafted a letter to the Board of Alderman. David asked Michelle if she drafted a letter to the Board of Alderman. Michelle stated that she was away and did not attend the Public Hearing. David stated that he was sick and did not attend the Public Hearing. David mentioned that he did contact his Alderman, Sal DeCola. David suggests that the commission members review his draft letter to the Board of Alderman. Michelle recommended a change to a typographical error. Robin also made a recommendation for a change to a typographical error. Robin inquired about whether the 7.2 percentage is the national average. David stated that the Commission does not have the figures for New Haven. Michelle suggested and asked if Chris might agree with her, about adding information in the

letter about returning veterans with disabilities. Chris agreed with Michelle. David also agreed and will add this information to the letter.

Michelle mentioned that there is employment data contained in the response from Jonathan Young at the National Council on Disability to an editorial in the Washington Times concerning the federal initiative to hire individuals with disabilities that is offensive. Michelle stated that she will email the link to all the commission members.

Department Report

Michelle noted that the Commission had discussed the PCA issue in past meetings. Michelle reported that she received an email from Dawn Lambert last week that she is no longer representing her department on the PCA Advisory Council. Michelle stated that there has been no meeting since last spring. Michelle stated that she will contact Dawn Lambert within the next few weeks to find out the status. Michelle stated that the Governor passed an executive order for the PCA Advisory Council to perform certain work while legislation was passed that does similar things. Michelle stated that the legislation included an Advisory Council, but the make-up is different. Michelle mentioned that she is not aware if the PCA Advisory Council will still exist.

Old Business

David asked Robin about the status of contacting Mary Lane at Transition Services at Wilbur Cross High School for an event for Disabilities Awareness Month in October. Robin stated that she emailed and had a brief telephone conversation with Mary Lane concerning viewing the movie entitled "Music Within" and developing a panel to moderate and discuss the movie with students at Wilbur Cross. Robin indicated that Mary Lane was positive and that they will speak more tomorrow. Robin stated that a panel will need to be created. Robin asked Michelle if she was interested in volunteering as a panelist. Michelle declined, but suggested Theresa Nadeau from CCCI, who previously worked at Youth@Work. Dana suggested a former navigator at Workforce Alliance. Michelle suggested that the panelist should be working.

Michelle asked if the commission members voted on the 2013 Schedule. David mentioned that the Commission must vote on the 2013 Schedule consisting of the full year of 2013 less the month of July. David asked for a vote. All commission members present voted. The 2013 Schedule less the month of July was approved unanimously.

New Business

Michelle stated that the Commission should begin discussing the elections next month. David stated that the available officers are: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. Dana asks about the end date of her term. David suggested that she should not continue as Vice Chairman. David asked Michelle to explain voting on a slate. Michelle discussed the difference between a vote on a slate and a vote for individual officers. She suggested a vote on a slate once all the nominations were complete. David stated that he will contact Elaine to return to the commission. David suggested that Matt Ranelli continue as Secretary.

Other Business

Robin mentioned that her employer, State of Connecticut Commissioner of Public Health, appointed her to the Governor's Inter-Agency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap. Robin stated that this Council is chaired by Nancy Weinman.

Public Comment/Announcements

Jennifer mentioned that she attended a meeting last week and the petition for a Walkable 100 College Street Development was distributed. Jennifer distributed a notice concerning the petition. She stated that it related to the Downtown Crossing Project. Michelle states that she sits on the City Site Plan Review Committee and can't imagine that this will be approved.

Robin asked Michelle if she knew why the accessible cabs were in Hartford last week. Michelle stated that she had not heard of any news.

David made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Robin seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn approved unanimously at 6:06 p.m.