



TONI N. HARP  
Mayor

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
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ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS  
Chairperson

## **Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes**

City Hall 4<sup>th</sup> Second Floor Meeting Room II

**April 9, 2018**

Present: Sally Esposito, Iva Long, Tricia Palluzzi, Benjamin Nadolsky and Robin Tousey-Ayers

Staff: Michelle Duprey

Absent: Billy Huang, Kurtis Kearney, Matthew Ranelli, Paula Pernal, and Jack Tsai

Meeting called to order at 5:27 p.m.

### **Minutes**

The Commission members reviewed the February Minutes. Robin mentioned that there is some fill-in the blanks on the Minutes. Michelle stated that the first two inserts should be "Veoci". Robin suggested the sentence referencing the "task force" located at the bottom of the third page should be deleted. Sally stated that Kurtis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Sally moved to approve the February Minutes and Iva seconded the motion, and the February Minutes were approved as amended.

### **Chairpersons Report**

Robin stated that she has been reassigned to the Prevention of Substance Abuse at the State of Connecticut. Robin discussed about adaptive sports and the programs at Southern Connecticut State University. She stated that the Commission should get on their list and/or on the Commission.

### **Department Report**

Michelle stated that her budget presentation is taking place on April 19, 2018. Robin mentioned that the third and final Public Hearing is May 9, 2018. Sally mentioned that the last Minutes available on the website is February 2017. She asked how the Commission meets its FOI requirements if the Minutes are not available on the website within 48 hours. Sally also requested that all the Commission members receive a draft of the Minutes prior to the meetings. Robin and Michelle had a discussion about prospective members. Benjamin stated that his last meeting will be at the May meeting. Michelle stated that Benjamin will have to resign. Robin asked for ideas about groups that the Commission should approach

such as Interfaith Council of Churches. Michelle suggested that the Commission begin with the Town Committees. Robin mentioned about recruiting the Elders Commission. Iva asked about attended the Homeless Commission.

### **Old Business**

Robin stated that Jack & Billy, who are not present at the meeting, are working on Bella Vista Evictions. She also mentioned that Jack is also working on financial literacy for people with disabilities and there are a lot of resources that she has been providing him.

Robin asked the Commission members are happy with the accessibility of the YNHH website. Sally mentioned that she encountered a serious customer relations/service issue and she could not locate this area on its website. Michelle stated that she has had complaints about accessibility that hasn't quite been resolved and the individual responsible has retired. Michelle mentioned that YNHH has not filled that position. She suggested contacting Susan Haufe at Patient Experience at YNHH.

Sally asked Michelle about the status of the elevator ordinance. Michelle stated that Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Director of LCI, has not responded to her emails and meeting invitations. Sally stated that there are two (2) new housing projects in New Haven and she would like to inform them of the elevator ordinance. She suggested that the Commission request the assistance of Alder DeCola about the non-responsiveness of LCI & the Fire Department. Tricia stated that she will contact Alder DeCola since she sees him all the time in her neighborhood.

### **New Business**

Benjamin stated that there will be a Public Art Display at Yale University on April 10, 2018. He discussed how he received permission to use a ramp for the display.

### **Other Business**

Iva mentioned that she has been involved with the unions of group homes. She stated that the CEO of Oak Hill has produced a bill to the State of Connecticut that will affect the employees of group homes as well as homecare workers. Robin stated that this issue is a state issue affecting all of us. Iva stated that she would like to have the CEO of Oak Hill attend a Commission meeting in the near future to discuss the issue. Robin suggested the June meeting.

### **Public Comment/Announcements**

Benjamin is graduating on May 21, 2018.

Next meeting May 14, 2018.

Sally made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tricia seconded the motion.

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