



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

June 12, 2017

Present: Sally Esposito, Billy Huang, Iva Long, Tricia Palluzzi, Robin Tousey-Ayers and Jack Tsai

Staff: Paula Pernal

Absent: Jenifer Blemings, Michelle Duprey, Kurtis Kearney, Benjamin Nadolsky, Matthew Ranelli and Maria Rivera

Meeting called to order at 5:53 p.m.

Minutes

The Commission members reviewed the May Minutes. Corrections were made to the May Minutes to: (1) correction the spelling of Bill Huang's name; (2) add Kurtis to moving the approval of the April Minutes; (3) change Commission to member where referencing Jessy Hardy; (4) change Homes & Advisory Commission to Homelessness Advisory Board; (5) change VAS to VASH; and, (6) change housing coupon to housing voucher. Tricia moved to approve the May Minutes and Sally seconded. The May Minutes as amended were approved. There were no abstentions.

Chairperson's Report

Robin mentioned that Jenifer & Maria have been in abstention for a while so she attempted to get in touch with both of them. Robin stated that she was able to contact Maria and she would like to come back to the Commission but was embarrassed and does not always have a ride. Robin inquired about how the Commission can become accessible to all of its members. Paula will invite Daryl Jones, the City Controller to the September meeting to discuss available assistive technology equipment that the Commission may use during its meetings. Sally suggested that Michelle's department write a grant with the Community Foundation for New Haven. Sally stated that the Commission should ask the Controller about grants for the Commission. Tricia stated that "Join Me" meetings are free.

Robin mentioned that Michelle is checking on the status of the new ADA language before the State legislature.

Robin will forward to all Commissioner the link about the Quinnipiac student who has autism and was told at an early age that he would not amount to anything. She also mentioned that ECA had conducted a dance piece on disability that she will bring to the Commission.

Robin stated that YNHH has a disability group that she will be in touch with shortly. Sally mentioned that the Commission needs to revisit with YNHH its website and bed management.

Department Report

None-Michelle is not present this evening.

Old Business

Robin stated that Jessy Hardy's presentation on the homeless was very helpful.

Other Commissioners asked if Michelle met with Corporation Counsel staff regarding the legal issues surrounding enforcement of elevator maintenance violations for both LCI & the Fire Department.

Robin mentioned that Benjamin is busy creating a Task Force providing recommendations to Yale Administration about best practices along with other youth.

New Business

Sally mentioned that there was an article in the New Haven Independent recently stating that the Democratic Town Committee was putting together a platform and raising disability issues. Sally asked other Commission members if it is appropriate for the Commission to have an input. Robin suggested that Michelle weigh-in on this topic.

Robin mentioned that she had interaction with an individual from the VA's Spinal Cord Injury Program.

Robin stated that the Commission should revisit with the students from Engineering Science Magnet School in New Haven.

Robin asked the Commissioners if they had received their questions to the New Haven Public School Superintendent Search Survey. Many of the Commissioners had not received the survey.

Robin mentioned that the Commission should invite the Mayor to an upcoming meeting again to keep her informed of the activities that the Commission is involved in.

Other Business

Robin reminded the Commissioners that the meeting at Bella Vista shall take place in October. Sally suggested have additional meetings in other neighborhood libraries.

Public Comment/Announcements

Next meeting September 11, 2017.

Jack made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Iva seconded the motion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was approved unanimously at 6:34 p.m.

Iva made a motion to reopen the meeting.

Sally seconded the motion.

Motion to Reopen the meeting was approved unanimously at 6:35 p.m.

New Business

Robin stated that because the Commissioners communicate by different means, the Commission shall now use group text messaging system in addition to group emailing system.

Robin made a motion to approve the use of additional communication.

Sally seconded the motion.

Motion to Approve the Use of Additional Communication was approved unanimously at 6:38 p.m.

Robin & other Commissioners agreed that Michelle should review disclosure/legal issues relating to text messaging.

Sally made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tricia seconded the motion.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was approved unanimously at 6:40 p.m.