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ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes
City Hall 2nd Floor Mayor’s Conference Room II
November 17, 2016

- Present: Jenifer Blemings, Sally Esposito, Kurtis Kearney, Benjamin Nadolsky, Tricia Palluzzi, Matthew Ranelli (via telephone), Robin Tousey-Ayers and Jack Tsai
- Staff: Michelle Duprey
- Absent: Iva Long, Maria Rivera, Jack Tsai and Paula Pernal
- Guest: Marvin Dunkely and Billy Huang
- Speakers: Robert (“Bobby”) Doyle, Fire Marshall and Douglas (“Doug”) Hausladen, Director of Transportation, Traffic & Parking

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Speakers

Robin described the Commission’s mission/platform to the guests.

Robin stated that the issue of elevator maintenance was brought to the attention of the Commission. She stated that the Commission submitted a Residential Elevator Ordinance Amendment as part of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance to the New Haven Board of Alders. Sally stated that the Board of Alders has asked the Commission for further legislation in creating an enforcement ordinance. Sally stated that the Commission is gathering that input to make the recommendations to the Alders.

Bobby Doyle stated that his department keeps records for calls made when someone is trapped in an elevator. Bobby stated that some calls are categorized/coded as complaint calls as opposed to 911 calls. He stated that it depends if it is a true emergency service. Bobby stated that many elevator problems are due to fires, sprinkler problems, or maintenance issues. Michelle stated that the Alders has requested from her that the Commission work on an ordinance where the Fire Department has the power to levy fines similar to the ones that

the Office of Transportation, Traffic & Parking impose, but for the removal of tenants due to non-working elevators. Bobby stated that this ordinance would have to come under Corporation Counsel. Michelle stated that she will check on this one. Bobby stated that the Commission should expand the Ordinance to both residential and commercial. Sally mentioned that there are medical facilities, schools, and colleges in the area that require access as well and perhaps the Commission should add them to the ordinance. Sally stated that LCI might be willing to assist the Fire Marshall. Bobby stated that his department has a good relationship with LCI. Robin mentioned that the Commission also needs data concerning the number of calls that are received by the Fire Department to go out to bring people trapped in their apartments to medical appointments, etc. Tricia stated that the Commission encourages residential housing to purchase service contracts in order to repair elevators. Benjamin suggested that the Commission should invite the Greater New Haven Property Association for Yale University to speak at a meeting concerning the elevator matter. Bobby Doyle stated that he will review his records for data concerning the number of calls received by the Fire Department in connection with broken elevators.

Doug Hausladen explained that the New Haven transportation study entitled, "Move New Haven Transit Mobility Study" evolved from federal funds from the federal transportation division in 2005. Doug stated that it took a long time and many false starts and trial and error to get to where we are today. He stated that the study is live as of October of 2016. encompasses two (2) phases: (1) data collection – taking a look at the transportation infrastructure in the City of New Haven and to see where we can make improvements, and peer review – taking a look at other communities and to see how they use transportation to increase population (Ann Harbor, Michigan & City of Houston, Texas), (2) develop transit alternatives - corridor specific bus improvements. Doug stated that Kurtis is a member on one of the twelve (12) management teams of the study – one is at Stetson Library and one is on the New Haven Green. Doug stated that the study has a 16-month schedule. Doug stated that the Greater New Haven Transit District is the grant manager for the 1M grant.

Doug stated that New Haven has the most advanced traffic signal system in the country and in New England for the town of its size. He stated that the traffic signal system knows when the fire department is coming and turns the light green for a fire truck. Doug stated the same system for buses is called transit signal priority and can be paired with design of roadway for buses so that they may pull over and now suddenly they are in front. Doug stated that there are 18 routes with 9.5M passengers annually with 129 buses. He said that most of expenses are covered by taxpayers. Doug stated that CT transit is serviced by 20 municipalities, including New Haven and most of the service is in New Haven. He stated that New Haven has 30% of the bus stops in the region. Doug stated that if the City of New Haven can improve the transfers made on the green, then all of these bus trips will be affected somehow and hopefully improved.

Doug stated that phase two involves how does the City of New Haven improve its corridors. Doug stated that the D line is most heaviest used daily passenger stops with the B line second. Doug stated that priorities change and funding is always limitations. He said that Title 6 is very important to the Commission and to the Transit Commission. Doug stated that there is a survey online at www.movenewhaven.com and there will be some virtual information in the spring. He stated that paper copies are also available. Doug stated that a lot of the study money will be on hard core data analysis, we need to collect the data. He mentioned that there is no data for onboard and off board at bus stops. Doug stated the CT transit has been slow with their technology investments, but they are installing GPS and automated passenger cards on all of their buses for the New Haven network. Sally asked if Doug is gathering information from people with disabilities. Doug stated that his department is gathering information from all passengers. He stated that New Haven has a life-line system now, not a transit system. Robin asked if there is a way to collect data concerning the number of wheelchairs coming onto the bus. Doug stated that CT transit could better answer this question. Michelle stated that if the 7:00 PM stop was expanded, then it would correlate better with the My Ride service. Michelle state that My Ride service has to mirror CT transit service. Doug stated that CT transit looks at all the alternate options of transportation such at Metro Taxi after 7:00 PM. Sally asked about Brookside to Fair Haven Heights. Doug stated that New Haven has 100% access within New Haven. He stated that the problems are the number of stops and the time it takes you riding the bus to get to your destination.

Minutes

The Commission members reviewed the October Minutes. Robin mentioned some edits: (1) under the "Absent" section, Iva long should be added; (2) under Chairperson's Report" section, change Disparities to for Disabilities", and (3) under "Chairperson's Report" section, paragraph 3, change on-day to one-day. Chairperson Report 3rd line Sally moved to approve the October Minutes and Kurtis seconded. The October Minutes were approves as amended.

Chairperson's Report

None.

Department Report

Michelle stated that due to the "public notice" requirement, she will have to implement an administrative condition of two (2) weeks in which to add an item to the Agenda.

Old Business

Robin asked for a Motion to table all old business to the December meeting. Sally made a motion to table all old business to the December meeting and Tricia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

None.

Other Business

None.

Public Comment/Announcements

Marvin Dunkely asked if there are any City or State funds available to purchase a house. The Commission made several suggestions for him to follow-up on.

Sally made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kurtis seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 7:00 p.m.