



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

October 5, 2015

Present: Jenifer Blemings, Sally Esposito, Sara Hungerford, Tricia Palluzzi, Matthew Ranelli, Jack Tsai and Robin Tousey-Ayers

Staff: Michelle Duprey and Paula Pernal

Guest: Kurtis Kearney and Benjamin Nadolsky

Absent: Lisa Spruill-Stevenson, Iva Long and Maria Rivera

Meeting called to order at 5:17 p.m.

Introductions were done.

Minutes

Michelle is working on the preparing the July Minutes.

Jack moved to approve the amendments to the June Minutes and Robin seconded. Unanimously approved.

Sally moved to approve the September Minutes and Tricia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report

Robin distributed the Proposed Annual Report to the Commission members. She explained the content of the Annual Report to the Commission members. Each strategic area of the Annual Report was reviewed and/or edited by the Commission members. Final changes shall be made by Robin and a vote shall take place at the next Commission meeting.

Robin distributed the Commission Summary, Ordinance & By-Laws to the Commission members.

Robin distributed a program from a conference, "Building A Great Life" held on October 2, 2015 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the ADA & the 40th Anniversary of the IDEA. Both Robin & Michelle attended the conference.

Robin stated that the Commission should have a discussion next year with the Commission on Aging. Robin also stated that transitioning youth with disabilities to adults with disabilities is a big issue at this time.

Department Report

Michelle stated that she attended the ADA Panel for Yale and it was interesting.

Michelle is meeting with the Parent Transit District Services next week to discuss its services.

Michelle shall follow-up with Yale New Haven Hospital regarding their attendance at the November or December Commission meeting.

Michelle stated the Commission meeting for November & December shall take place in a meeting room downstairs. The exact location shall be noted on the November Agenda and the Schedule for 2015.

Michelle discussed her meeting with Stratus Video to provide interpreters to the City. Stratus Video can provide web-based or app services; charging by the minute; and, provide i-pads.

Old Business

Robin summarized the meeting with Yale New Haven Hospital and identified topics of concern that were discussed: accommodations, equipment, web-site navigation, and bed-management.

Sally discussed the subsequent meeting with Yale New Haven Hospital concerning its web-communications.

Michelle invited a representative from Yale New Haven Hospital to attend the November Commission meeting. No response received to date.

Matt distributed a draft of the Elevator Ordinance to the Commission members for review. Proposed revisions were discussed. Members should speak to their Alders about sponsorship of this ordinance.

Sally mentioned that Robin, Michelle & herself visited Long Wharf Theatre in an effort to increase disabled attendance at performances. Long Wharf Theatre was responsive and is committed to making additional wheelchair space available. Sally shall contact Jack with Theatre information so that we may include any veterans interested in the theatre.

New Business

None.

Other Business

Jennifer moved to approve the 2016 Schedule and Sara seconded. Unanimously approved.

Public Comment/Announcements

Kurtis stated that the Transportation Committee proposes to extend the hours to the Long Wharf Theatre.

Matthew made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Sally seconded the motion.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously at 6:49 p.m.