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DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Approved

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
January 10, 2011

Present: Jason Gomez, David Hicks, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli
Robin Tousey-Ayers

Absent: Dana Canevari

Staff: Michelle Duprey

The meeting was brought to order and a quorum was established. David Hicks explained that Linda Reeder resigned from the Commission. It was also brought to our attention that Robin Tousey-Ayers will not be reappointed as she has been on the Commission for nine consecutive terms. This was her last meeting.

Chairman's report

David Hicks talked about how the contacts he had regarding the Handicapped Parking Placard initiative are now in different positions and no longer available to discuss this legislation. This includes Senator DeFronzo who is no longer on the Transportation Committee, and Rick Lopes, who has moved to another position as well. David Hicks talked about some other people who are on the Transportation Committee, regarding a bill for this legislative session.

Dr. Cohen was suppose to be present at this meeting and was unable to make the meeting as he has difficulty ambulating and didn't think he could manage the walk through City Hall. There was some discussion about phone conferencing and our inability to do so within City Hall.

The conversation then turned to a discussion about meeting at a school. Matthew Ranelli said he will look into the logistics of meeting at Hooker School. The meeting rooms at City Hall have phone jacks but there are no phones and it is uncertain whether the phone jacks are active. (Michelle Duprey said she will check to see if any of the jacks are live).

The minutes for December were reviewed. Elaine Quinn motioned to accept the minutes as written, Robin Tousey-Ayers seconded, Matthew Ranelli abstained from voting. The December minutes were unanimously passed.

Department Report

This was Robin Tousey-Ayers last meeting as a Commissioner, so there were refreshments provided by Michelle Duprey.

Michelle Duprey reported the Department had been approached by 1199, which is a Union trying to pass legislation to unionized Personal Care Attendants. They called her to see if they could get support on this

issue. Michelle Duprey reported that although she has decided that the Department is not going to support this bill, the Commission on Disabilities may decide differently. There was discussion as to why she did not want to support it.

Michelle Duprey reported on the hearings that are coming up at DOT regarding increased territory for wheelchair accessible cabs. She explained they are trying to recruit people with disabilities to testify. David Hicks said that he will send a letter to Michelle Duprey in support.

Michelle Duprey reported that she has submitted her budget and will see what happens in March.

Old Business

Diagnosis of a Faun-no report

By laws-leave of absence

It was decided that instead of looking to change the by-laws, it would make more sense to see about phone conferencing abilities for the Commission meetings.

New Business

Because of the recent news that Robin Tousey-Ayers can not serve another term, and she was elected as Secretary for 2011, the COD needed to elect a new Secretary. Jason Gomez was asked if he would like to serve and after asking about the responsibilities for the position, he agreed. There was a motion made to elect him as the Secretary, made by David Hicks, and seconded by Robin Tousey-Ayers. The motion was so moved.

Other Business

Robin Tousey-Ayers talked about attending a public budget presentation made by the Mayor. She suggested that Commission members attend these types of hearing so they have a presence.

Elaine Quinn announced that NAMI is presenting a video on January 31st at the Elm Street Library on "The Mentally Ill Brain". It will be followed by a discussion.

Announcements

Robin Tousey-Ayers announced that on January 27th, there will be a day long presentation, "Healthy New Haven".

She also shared an article in the Register about a young man who has a disability who now lives in Spain and plays basketball.

She shared another Register article that talked about our new Governor Malloy who has a learning disability and thinks he may be an advocate for people with disabilities as he has first hand experience of the barriers.

There was a discussion about the difficulty with parking and coming to COD meetings as a result of it. Michelle Duprey will pursue parking on an Elm Street lot.

There was a motion to adjourn by Jason Gomez, seconded by Robin Tousey-Ayers. The meeting adjourned.