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DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
February 7, 2011

Present: Dana Canevari, David Hicks, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli

Absent: Jason Gomez

Staff: Michelle Duprey

Public: Cecile Brodsky, William Long

The meeting was brought to order and a quorum was established. There was a motion to review the minutes, since it was overlooked on the agenda. Elaine Quinn made a motion to review the minutes which was seconded by Dana Canevari and so moved. Elaine Quinn and Dana Canevari abstained from voting. The minutes were reviewed and a vote was taken to accept the January minutes as written.

Chairman's report

New Legislature-few bills that will be of interest to everybody. PB 710 seeks to repeal changes made by the legislature over the last few years to improve the situation regarding handicapped parking permit process. Cecile Brodsky spoke about the abuse.

A bill has been proposed that would add a photo to the placard. P&A has gotten on board and is supporting the bill. David is going to public hearing and supporting this bill. David, motion to support the bill, Elaine seconded. Passed unanimously.

Other bill concerning volunteer conducting handicapped parking enforcement. Elaine Quinn has concerns that someone could get hurt. The bill as it is currently proposed does not have the specifics but it's more of a question of the economics of enforcement. Elaine would want to see the methodology. David stated that other states have done this with successful results, and is generating revenue. Even if it doesn't become a bill, supporting the bill will be useful. Motion made by David to support the bill for volunteer enforcements. Elaine, seconded. Vote all in favor of volunteer bill. Passed.

Department Report

Department intended to show a video but because of technical difficulties, the video was not shown.

Weather has been a big problem for many individuals with disabilities.

Applied for a benefits counseling grant with several partners but we were unsuccessful.

Department has been attending and supporting the petition for an additional 140 accessible taxis in Connecticut. The hearings have been very difficult on the testifiers with disabilities, intervening attorneys were particularly disturbing.

We are retooling for the New Haven hearing that will be held at the end of February to better prepare members of the community. Dana asked about the experience. Michelle is preparing guidelines. Asked

for one person from the Commission. It was emphasized how important it is that people testify. Daria at State Independent Living Council is coordinating the transportation. David Hicks can do a letter of support to the Commissioner. Elaine moved that a letter of support for the taxi hearings, Dana seconded. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Dana - Diagnosis of a Faun

She suggested that the Commission go to Very Special Arts. Now VSA is giving problems about the theatre. There is difficulty with the theatre as well. It was decided to ask Marc back so they can figure out what's going on. Dana will forward the e-mails to David.

Matt - Meeting Locations

An alternative location for Commission meetings is being explored, in particular we are looking at Hooker School, first floor conference room. Matt will check on telephone lines in the conference room for Commissioners that cannot attend in person and the rooms availability over the summer.

New Business

Two guests introduced themselves as they are considering joining the Commission.

Dana moved to adjourned.