

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 7th, 2018
6:00 PM**

Present: Committee Chair Elanah Sherman, Jane O’Friel, Kevin Harkins, Victor Harley, and Laurie Messore.

Absent: Cynthia Litton, Lottie Scott

Others Present: Ryan Thompson

Call to Order: Elanah called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present (5/7).

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Jane, seconded by Laurie, the Minutes from the May 3rd 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Citizen Comments: None

Communications: None

Guest Speaker: Ryan Thompson, Director of Public Works:

Ryan reviewed what Public Works is doing to address ADA deficiencies in the City. When he became Director about three years ago, he created a list of 70 ADA issues that required remediation; many have been resolved. The City is currently installing compliant restrooms at Mohegan Park. During Ryan’s well-publicized running tour of the City, he identified other issues. As a result of the publicity, Senator Chris Murphy contacted Ryan and offered to help identify grant opportunities.

Elanah relayed Lottie’s concern with the Church-Union-Broadway intersection. Ryan says he is well aware of the safety issues and that remediation would cost about a million dollars. He said he would welcome suggestions for a temporary solution. Elanah also communicated Lottie’s idea for a pedestrian-friendly initiative. Ryan welcomed the idea and said his Department would collaborate.

Elanah said she would like to meet with Ryan and Brigid to discuss updating the City’s Transition Plan. Once she has a date, she will invite other Commission members.

Ryan concluded by encouraging members to contact the Department regarding ADA issues they identify.

Old Business:

Commission Vacancies: There are still several vacancies on the Commission. Kevin and Elanah are attempting to solicit a member who is a veteran.

Disabilities Awareness Week: The Week will take place Tuesday, October 9th-Saturday, October 13th at Otis Library. Tentative plans include:

- ABCs of ADA (presented by Elanah)
- Legislative Forum (organized by Elanah)
- Voting Rights (presented by Elanah)
- Special Needs Trust (Jane identified a presenter.)
- Service Animal Demonstration (organized by Elanah)
- Workshop on local recreational opportunities
- CT Parent Advocacy Group presentation

- Opening Minds book club participation
- Booths for local organizations and city departments (Victor will secure Reliance Health participation.)
- Concert

By-laws Change Update: Elanah submitted language regarding phone attendance to the City Clerk, who has forwarded the document to the Corporation Counsel.

New Business:

Resignation of Jane O'Friel: This is Jane's last Commission meeting. She is moving out of the State.

Introduction of new member Victor Harley: Victor works at Reliance Health as a Program Director. He has special expertise in the area of mental health.

Federal candidates' forum in Cromwell: Elanah, who is on the statewide Steering Committee for this event, said that the Committee is seeking sponsors of the forum. Sponsorship involves publicizing the event and encouraging attendance. The Commission voted unanimously to become a sponsor (motion by Laurie, seconded by Kevin).

Adjournment: On a motion from Jane, seconded by Kevin, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. The next meeting will be at 6 PM on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at Norwich City Hall in Room 319. (Meeting date adjusted because of the July 4th holiday.)

Meeting Minutes written by Ivery Stakley on June 7th, 2018; revised by Elanah Sherman on 6/13/18.