

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2019, Room 319  
6:00 PM**

**Present:** Chair Elanah Sherman, Vice-Chair Kevin Harkins, Cynthia Litton, Mark Marcy, Julie Menders

**Absent:** Laurie Messore, Kevin Saythany, Barbara Stigar

**Others Present:** Brigid Marks, City ADA Coordinator

**Call to Order:** Elanah called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**Determination of Quorum:** It was determined a quorum was present (5/8).

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion from Mark, seconded by Kevin, the May Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved as amended. (Kevin asked that the Minutes reflect that the City suggested, rather than "wanted," Disability Awareness Week to be held the week of October 7.)

**Citizen Comments:** None.

**Communications:** None.

**Old Business**

**Commission Membership Update/ Introduction of New Members:** Lottie has resigned from the Commission. Two new members, Barbara Stiger and Julie Menders, have been appointed. Julie has worked for Otis Library for the past 20 years.

**Westgate Shopping Center - Update:** Jim Troeger is again handling the accessible parking violation. He is in touch with the responsible parties. Elanah will continue to request updates.

**Brown Park:** Teresa of DPW told Elanah that the Brown Park pavement has been patched and that the patching will be evaluated by DPW before the start of the festival season. No other identified issues will be remediated until funding is secured.

**Vote on amended by-laws:** On a motion by Kevin, seconded by Mark, with one abstention (Julie), the amended by-laws were unanimously accepted.

**Upcoming Norwich Census:** On a motion by Mark, seconded by Julie, the Commission voted unanimously to have Elanah represent the Commission on the local census committee.

### **Disability Awareness Week:**

**Janet Hawkins Update.** Elanah reported that The ARC is not interested in co-sponsoring a talk by Stuart Hawkins. At Kevin's suggestion, Elanah will contact other organizations for co-sponsorship. The talk this year would focus on public benefits.

**CHRO.** The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will make a presentation on Title I. Elanah will organize and moderate a panel.

**Voting Rights Activity.** Elanah and Kevin plan to go on the radio with Stu Bryer, preferably with the Registrars. (Last year's show generated significant call volume.)

**Other.** Delegation for organization of activities will take place at the July meeting. Elanah suggested no more than one activity per day. Julie confirmed that Otis will again be a primary partner.

### **New Business**

**Crosswalk at Norwichtown Green:** A concerned citizen reported to Elanah that a crosswalk starts with a non-compliant curb ramp (on the UCFS side) and ends at a curb (on the Green side). Teresa of DPW explained that the ramp is intended for pedestrians exiting their car on the Green side of the street and crossing to UCFS. She will review the curb ramp.

**Guest Speaker: Chris Riley from Norwich Public Utilities.** Chris was invited to the meeting to discuss the possibility of installing public charging stations for the use of motorized wheelchair users. This idea had been brought to the Commission some time ago by a local constituent. Details would be worked out by means of focus groups and/or a task force composed of people who would benefit. Chris was receptive to the idea. He suggested that, if the project moves forward substantively in the next few months, an initiative could be announced during Disability Awareness Week. Julie will do research on other libraries hosting charging stations. Brigid said a community development grant might be a source of funding; Elanah mentioned that a national organization has been providing funding throughout the country. Chris said that he would publish a query on the NPU Facebook page to gauge interest. As Chris was happy to address additional issues, discussion moved to other topics. Elanah asked if NPU has a designated ADA point person. Chris said such issues would start in customer service and move to him, if necessary; Elanah also asked if the website is accessible. Kevin volunteered to check it out. At several points during the discussion, members voiced their satisfaction with NPU customer service.

**Adjournment:** On a motion from Mark, seconded by Kevin, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:51 PM. The next meeting will be at 6 PM on **Thursday, July 11th, 2019** at Norwich City Hall in Room 319.

Meeting Minutes written by Ivery Stakley; revised by Elanah Sherman