

**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 2nd, 2019, Room 319
6:00 PM**

Present: Mark Marcy, Kevin Saythany, Kevin Harkins, and Cynthia Litton.

Teleconferencing: Committee Chair Elanah Sherman.

Absent: Laurie Messore, and Lottie Scott.

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 (5/7).

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Kevin H, seconded by Cyndi the April meeting minutes were accepted as presented.

Citizen Comments: None.

Communications: None.

Old Business:

Commission Vacancies: The commission has two vacancies left to fill.

Charging Stations - NPU Speaker Date: On June 6th the commission will have a guest speaker from Norwich Public Utilities.

Westgate Shopping Center - Update: Diana Rhode will keep us updated and give a report next month.

Brown Park:

There will be short term remediation for pavement in Brown Park.

Elanah spoke to patrick from public health about the fumes in Brown Park, and he says that it is not their jurisdiction to regulate fumes, it is more of an environmental issue.

Vote on amended by-laws:

Elanah found that any confusing parts of the by-laws were taken directly from the city charter. Then the commissioners discussed whether it is allowed by the commission by-laws to speak outside the meeting about Commission issues.

New Business:

Disability Awareness Week: Kevin spoke with Bonnie about Disability Awareness Week, and it was decided that it should occur October 7th- 12th so it will not conflict with Columbus Day.

Request from Janet Hawkins- Elanah was contacted by Jane Hawkins, who is the wife of one of the presenters Stuart Hawkins from last year, they have a business for setting up trusts for parents of special needs kids. Janet wants to do another presentation, and although the event was not popular last year. The commission decided they should have the event at the Ark. Kevin wants them to host the event on Public Access Television.

Workshop on access to places of worship- The event will have nothing to do with the ADA because there is an exception for places of worship. It should be a discussion of members of congregations.

Other ideas- Elanah and Kevin discussed reconstructing the resource fair, where they get pamphlets and more from organizations and host a table in the atrium because having the event in the community room killed it last year. Elanah wants the municipal round table at the Senior Center. Brigid thinks we need to improve our communication plan for the week earlier so we get more attendance.

Upcoming Norwich Census-Bonnie called to ask Elanah if she wanted to be on a municipal committee to set up a public relations campaign to contact all the persons with disabilities in the area. As she gets info she will present it at commission meetings.

Planning Department Grant Application for New London Turnpike

Improvements- Elanah was asked to write a letter supporting a grant for improvements to New London Turnpike. The planning department is applying for the grant and it is under a million dollars, but it is important because it involves installing more sidewalks making the area safer and more accessible. They are also working on traffic lights but Elanah asked that they include audible crossing signals will be included in all new traffic lights.

Cyndi says that audible crossing sounded like a big truck, Elanah asked that she meet with someone from the planning department to discuss other tones they could possibly use for crosswalks.

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

Meeting Minutes written by Ivery Stakley; revised by Elanah Sherman