

Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 3rd, 2019
6:00 PM

Present: Committee Chair Elanah Sherman, Julie Menders, Kevin Saythany, Mark Marcy, Amy Dudek, Julie Menders and Kevin Harkins.

Excused Absence: Cynthia Litton.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Brigid Marks.

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

Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present (7/8).

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Kevin S, seconded by Mark M, September 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Citizen Comments: None.

Communications: None.

Old Business:

Westgate Shopping Center-Update: Mark says the owner of the shopping center sent the issue to the management company but once they get the site plan they will incorporate handicap parking. Mark will follow up in December.

Upcoming Norwich Census- Update: Elanah and Kevin were unable to attend the last meeting but she will attend the next meeting on November 6th. There is no press involved yet.

Charging Stations- Next Steps: There will be a meeting Friday October 11th at 2pm at the Senior Center about the Charging Stations.

Disability Awareness Week:

Final Planning:

Elanah asked the commission for making a motion to approve a \$100 check to Carrissa, a graphic designer, who is coming to participate in the Discussion on ADA Employment Rights. Mark made a motion to approve a \$100 stipend, seconded by Julie, which was then unanimously approved by the commission.

Mark will create a list of questions for Legislative Panel for Elanah to approve before they ask them during the Panel. They will email the questions to the legislators before hand so they can better prepare. Elanah will also prepare some sample questions. Cyndi recently talked to Elanah about the sheltered workshops where people with disabilities being paid well below the minimum wage. The commission discussed bringing it up in the legislative workshop.

The commission then discussed how the week is being publicized. The Senior Center are hanging fliers. The Day, newspaper, had an article about Disability

Awareness Week. Kevin H sent fliers went out to all the clergy in Norwich. The Week has also been mentioned on channels 3 and 8.

New Business:

2020 Calendar:

It is tabled to the November meeting. The commission will discuss changing the time of the meeting during the November meeting.

Post Office Discussion: Amy brought up how the Norwich Post Office is not ADA compliant. Elanah has researched it before but it does not have to be ADA compliant because it is a federal building. There are however different ways that those with disabilities can access to their services. The commission will follow up on this issue at a later meeting.

Adjournment: On a motion from Kevin H, seconded by Amy, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM. The next meeting will be at 6 PM on Thursday, November 7th, 2019 at Norwich City Hall in Room 319.

Meeting Minutes written by Ivery Stakley

City of Norwich
Disability Awareness Week
October 7 – October 11, 2019
A Week of Interaction on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
and Other Disability-Related Issues

Voting Rights for People with Disabilities (radio)

Monday, October 7, 11:00 AM

Norwich Registrars of Voters Dianne Daniels and Diane Slopak, along with Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities members Kevin Harkins and Elanah Sherman, discuss voting rights on the Stu Bryer Show, WICH-1310 Radio.

Government Benefits for People with Disabilities

Monday, October 7, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Presenter: Stuart Hawkins, Founder and Financial Advisor, Futures Planned

Where: Disabilities Network of Eastern CT (DNEC), 19 Ohio Avenue

Working It Out: Presentation and Panel Discussion on ADA Employment Rights

Tuesday, October 8, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Presenters: Attorneys from CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, plus others

Where: Community Room, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Lunch & Learn: Disability Sensitivity Workshop

Wednesday, October 9, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Registration required. Call Julie at 860-889-2365, ext. 128 to register.

Presenter: Melissa Marshall, Coordinator, CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance.

Where: Meeting Room, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Resource Table and Voter Registration

Wednesday, October 9, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where: Atrium, Otis Library, 261 Main Street

Municipal Roundtable (featuring key City employees on topics of ADA relevance)

Thursday, October 10, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Where: Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Drive

Legislative Panel Discussion on Past and Upcoming Disability-Related Legislation

Friday, October 11, 10:30 – 11:45am

Where: Rose City Senior Center, 8 Mahan Drive

All events free and open to the public. For a calendar of events, go to www.otislibrarynorwich.org. For material in alternative format or sign language interpretation, please contact elanahs@gmail.com or 860-614-7200. (Request deadline: September 30)

Disability Awareness Week is sponsored by the Norwich Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with the essential support of the City of Norwich Office of the Mayor, Norwich Public Utilities, Otis Library, and Rose City Senior Center.