

Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 2nd, 2023, 4pm
Room 319 in City Hall

Present: Julie Menders, Joanne Philbrick, Wendy Fenner, and Mark Marcy

Absent: Cynthia Litton, Amy Dudek, Brigid Marks

Others Present: None.

Call to Order: Julie called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present, with the current members in the commission (4/6).

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Mark, seconded by Joanne the minutes from the November 3, 2022 meeting and the January 12th, 2023 Special meeting were unanimously approved.

Citizen Comments: None

Communications: None

Old Business:

Approval of 2022 Annual Report: Julie Submitted a draft of the Annual Report to the city. It will be accepted as the final copy with approval from the commission.
A motion was made by Mark to approve the 2022 Annual Report, seconded by Julie.
Unanimously approved by commission.

Approval of check for Sign Language Interpretation services on October 12, 2022: During a Disability Awareness Week event in October, Otis library paid for interpreter services.
Mark made a motion to refund the library \$200 for paying a disability network staff member for interpreter services. Seconded by Wendy, unanimously approved by commission.

Discussion of Amended By-Laws: Joanne wanted corporation councils seal of approval for amending the by-laws. Mark said the commission didn't need to go to the corp council when the by-laws were last updated a few years ago. Mark and Julie discussed and explained what and why bylaws are being updated. Members thought the changed by-laws were already updated. Julie only wanted to ask about continuing to list the original members on the last page of the by-laws. But not all commissioners were in favor of this. Julie will send out an updated version this week.

Mark made a motion to table the by-laws until next month seconded by Wendy.

Discussion of Commission Officers: Amy missed the last couple of meetings due to health concerns and has asked to step away from the commission for a year while she recovers. She will submit her resignation from the commission to the city soon. All members attending today must attend all future meetings to meet quorum. Commissioners then discussed the need for more members. And what needed to be done to gain more members.

New Business:

Closed captioning accessibility at public meetings: Bridgid previously talked about buying the technology for Closed Captioning using grants. Commissioners discussed what grants may be available or where money may be available.

Letter of Support for Avalonia's Cedar Wood Preserve Accessibility Project: Avalonia (land trust/land preserve) is the first one opened in Norwich, CT. They are trying to find the funds to make their space more handicap accessible. They are requesting the commission write a letter supporting their grant applications and such.

Mark made a motion to approve the letter, second by Joanne. It is approved unanimously.

Adjournment: On a motion from Joanne, seconded by Mark, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM. The next meeting will be at 4pm on Thursday, April 6 2022 at Norwich City Hall in Room 319.

Meeting Minutes Written by Ivery Stakley on March 2nd, 2023.

Under program 1, cross bridgets name out julie contacted elanh, julie did, underbylaws mark was accepting changes by the city council. In new business "joanne doesnt think he has the power to make a motion.