



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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COMMISSION ON DISABILITY RIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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Minutes: The Hamden Commission on Disability Rights & Opportunities held a Regular Meeting via Zoom on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The following topics were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Ms. Delaney, Mr. Dupont, Ms. Cooney, Ms. Dobin, Ms. Frodel

Commissioners Absent: Mrs. Cavanaugh, Ms Cavanaugh, Ms. Steele

Others in Attendance: ADA Coordinator Ms. Walsh, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

1. Call to Order

Ms. Delaney called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of April 12, 2021

Mr. Dupont made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting. Ms. Frodel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Correspondence

Ms. Delaney received an invoice confirming the reservations at the Yard Goat's game and the amount that was owed. She is checking in to the fact that she was told there are no more handicapped parking places in the garage. Ms. Walsh said State Statutes require one handicapped space for every twenty-five spaces in public venues. Ms. Delaney is working with the Hartford Parking Authority. She found mention of handicapped parking spaces in past minutes. There was discussion on how difficult it would be to try to drop off a handicapped person and leave that person to go find parking. Ms. Delaney apologized to Commissioners for not sending them the application to attend the Yard Goats game. She will send it out to whoever is interested. The game is scheduled

for Sunday, June 27th at 12:00 noon. The parking lot is on Main Street. The picnic area is open until the 9th inning.

4. Chairman's Report

Ms. Delaney had no thing further to report.

5. ADA Coordinator Kathy Walsh's Report

Ms. Walsh had nothing to report.

6. Committee Reports

Mr. Dupont is still holding off on his disability friendly review program until more people are out and about following the pandemic. He told of a program that Sikorsky has with Rowan University and said they just hired two students on the spectrum as engineers. The University of Connecticut will recommend three students on the spectrum for engineering positions if they can find applicants. Walgreen's distribution facility has approximately 50% of their West Haven staff disabled. Travelers archives a lot of paper and hires staff on the spectrum to archive papers for them. We need to get Hamden businesses to follow that example. Mr. Dupont remarked that Sikorsky has 30 people that mentor students with disabilities and another thirty who volunteer to do it, but there are not enough students. He told of a woman who graduated last year, a deaf person, who is looking for a better position with a company that can make appropriate accommodations for her.

Ms. Cooney mentioned Amazon distribution and sortation centers in North Haven and Wallingford. Mr. Dupont said Amazon is not part of the organization he is in. Sikorsky is not working with BRS. Ms. Walsh said Walgreens, Goodwill and Burlington are working with BRS. Ms. Delaney mentioned that Southern Connecticut State University used to be very involved in getting jobs for disabled students.

Ms. Delaney asked Ms. Frodel to report on the virtual dance. Ms. Frodel said the numbers were low, possibly 35 total. Several Commission reported they were unable to get in to the program. Ms. Walsh got in but kept getting booted out. Dave the DJ did the technical part. There were about 25 attendees from Chapel Haven. Ms. Walsh spoke to one mother of a son that attended who said he had a good time. Ms. Delaney said perhaps we can have a small in person dance in the Fall. She said some people don't have the technical abilities.

There was mention of the Yard Goats game and the good beer they have available. Mr. Dupont said the Thomas Hooker Brewing Company has 25% of their Bloomfield bottling operation staff with disabilities.

8. New Business

Tonight was Ms. Frodel's last meeting as she is moving to Southington at the end of the month. Commissioners wished her well and thanked her for everything has done for the Commission. She will drop off the box of Commission related items to Ms. Delaney. Ms. Frodel said it was an absolute pleasure working with the Commissioners. She is currently working for the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Dupont made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Frodel seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk