



**JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.**  
*Mayor*

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
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*Promoting*  
 **Accessibility**  
*In New Haven*

**DAVID HICKS**  
*Chairperson*

Draft

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
**December 14, 2009**

Present: Dana Canevari, Chris Getlein, David Hicks, Stan Kontogiannis, Matthew Ranelli, Linda Reeder, Robin Tousey-Ayers

Absent: Elaine Quinn, Heiwa Salovitz

Staff: Michelle Duprey

David Hicks brought the meeting to order. The November minutes were reviewed and several suggestions and revisions were made to the minutes by Robin Tousey-Ayers. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Chris Getlein and seconded by Robin Tousey-Ayers. Linda Reeder abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The September minutes were not reviewed and were tabled until next meeting. Dana Canevari made a motion to table the minutes again. The motion was unanimously approved.

The agenda should have included elections for officers to the Commission; however it was not on the agenda. The matter had to be tabled until January and it will be on the agenda for January.

**Chairman's Report**

David Hicks agreed to come up with interviewing procedures for potential new Commissioners. He developed some sample questions. The Commissioners were given a copy of the questions and reviewed them. Stan Kontogiannis made a motion and Dana Canevari seconded the motion that the questions be sent out to the people who were not at this meeting, and then voted on the next meeting. The motion unanimously passed.

David Hicks agreed to write a letter to Commissioner Ward of DMV regarding accessing the same database that police have (COLLECT/CATER) so that the City's Department of Transportation, Traffic and Parking will have access to the same. A bill was passed but there was nothing in the language about a database. David Hicks is waiting for a response from his DMV contact and then will send a draft letter around to the Commissioners before mailing it.

Stan Kontogiannis asked about the consensus regarding the issue of the Commissioners' being deputized to enforce Handicapped Parking in the city areas under Transportation, Traffic and Parking's authority, and next steps in that process. David Hicks suggested

writing a follow up letter to Michael Piscitelli asking about the process. He put this in the form of a motion which was unanimously approved.

Matthew Ranelli asked a question regarding what Brian McGrath, the previous head of that department, had said they could do with ticketing when photographs were provided. It was explained that when they brought this idea up to Michael Piscitelli he did not know it had been done, but had brought up the possibility of deputizing Commissioners. Matthew Ranelli said was in favor of whatever works and if there is a less formal way "then let's go with it".

David Hicks informed commissioners who had missed the meeting that Mr. Piscitelli had given commissioners the telephone number used to dispatch traffic agents. There was concern about the response time using this method. David Hicks thought they should still lobby for the use of photographs as evidence of abuse and said he would mention it in the letter. It was also decided to inquire what was necessary to include in the photo in the letter to Michael Piscitelli.

#### Department Report

Michelle Duprey was not able to give a report as she had a sore throat and difficulty speaking.

#### Old Business

##### *Web Page*

Stan Kontogiannis handed out the proposed changes to the Commissions web page. He also stated there were plans to add pictures and stories from events in order to highlight the work of the Commission. Matthew Ranelli offered to scan these articles.

Michelle Duprey pointed out that a text option might be necessary. Stan Kontogiannis said he will take a crack at it and have it ready for the January meeting. There was some more discussion about the handicapped placard and that the Commission was instrumental in getting the law changed and whether this should be added to the web page.

Stan Kontogiannis discussed the issue of keeping the website general and non specific so it remains fresh. There were some more suggestions and review of the web site proposals. Matthew Ranelli made the statement that it is important that citizens can bring issues to the Commission and he wanted to make this point on the website. It was agreed that the list of presenters should be consistent, stating the position and then the department. After discussion, it was also agreed there would be a note on the site inviting the public to attend and that if people did come, they would have the public comment first on the agenda. Stan Kontogiannis will make the amendments and send it out electronically to the Commission members.

##### *Film Series*

Dana Canevari reviewed what had been decided about Gateway College. It was decided to contact them as eventually they would be downtown, and at least let them know about the Commission and their interest in a film series, as they may want to forge a partnership in the future. Dana Canevari said she will try to reach them by next month.

##### *Accessible Building review*

David Hicks said he is trying to reach the person who is managing the Gateway construction. Thoughts were shared about how the plans were decided upon. Michelle Duprey suggested having someone come to a meeting and explain how they considered

the issue of accessibility. Everyone agreed. It was recommended that David Hicks follow up. Linda Reeder suggested that they ask someone from the design team.

#### New Business

The Election needs to be on the agenda next time.

Dana sent an excellent article regarding a performance which took place in New York. She said it's a ballet piece about disability and sexuality. It was in New York in the East Village and she went to see it. The venue was not particularly accessible. There was a question and answer period at the end of the presentation. Robin Tousey Ayers mentioned keeping track and publicizing it the performance which was entitled "Diagnosis of a Faun". There was a general consensus that it would be great to get them in New Haven.

#### Announcement

Elaine Quinn sent a Thank you card to the Commission members thanking them for the flowers that were sent to her due to her surgery. The card was read aloud.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting from Dana Canevari, seconded by Chris Getlein. The meeting adjourned.