



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

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

**DAVID HICKS**  
*Chairperson*

**Approved**

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
**January 11, 2009**

Present: Dana Canevari, Chris Getlein, David Hicks, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli,  
Linda Reeder, Heiwa Salovitz

Absent: Stan Kontogiannis, Robin Tousey-Ayers,

Staff: Michelle Duprey

David Hicks opened the meeting. A quorum was established. The September 2009 minutes were reviewed. Linda Reeder moved to accept the minutes as written which was seconded by Heiwa Salovitz. The September minutes were unanimously approved.

The December 2009 minutes were reviewed. Linda Reeder moved to accept the minutes as written and Chris Getlein seconded. Heiwa Salovitz and Elaine Quinn abstained from voting. The December minutes were unanimously approved.

**Chairman's Report**

David Hicks reported he wrote and mailed two letters. One of them was to Commissioner Ward regarding getting DMV to authorize the Department of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking to be able to use their data base. This would allow them to get access to license information and photo to check if placards are being used for the authorized recipient. A copy of the letter was sent to the Director of Transportation, Traffic and Parking, Michael Piscitelli.

David Hicks wrote the second letter directly to Michael Piscitelli. This letter reflected commissioners' thinking on how they might play a part in enforcement of Handicapped Parking laws in the city. David Hicks suggested in the letter that in addition to using the dispatch telephone number Michael Piscitelli gave the Commission during the November meeting, the members would like to be deputized, as offered, and to take photographs which might be used to help prove violations in the event that a dispatched agent did not arrive on scene in time to ticket a violation.

David Hicks said that he will be sending an e-mail to the construction site for Gateway Community College in the near future.

### Department Report

Michelle Duprey reported the Connect-Ability grant ended December 31, 2009. They completed all of the goals of the Strategic Plan. The Department was able to purchase a high definition video recorder and will use it for training videos.

Out of the grant funds they paid for a motivational speaker, Sean Stephenson, to present at the Greater New Haven Chamber Conference on the importance of employing people with disabilities. The presentation is posted on the Department's website. The movie is in three parts and it is about a total of a half hour in length.

Michelle Duprey suggested that the Commission start talking about the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and what type of celebration event they might like to plan for July.

### Old Business

#### *Election of Officers*

Matthew Ranelli made a motion to cast one vote for the current officers to be nominated for the upcoming year. Chris Getlein seconded the motion. The vote tally was unanimous in favor.

#### *Web site update*

Stan Kontogiannis was not present at the meeting but he had emailed Matt Ranelli and David Hicks with some information. Matthew Ranelli was planning on scanning some documents and sent three items to Stan Kontogiannis. Matthew Ranelli said that he is going to look for an article about Metro Taxi and the other two items were related to the beach wheelchairs and the Spokebenders. There was some more discussion about format. Matthew Ranelli brought up the issue of additional articles, such as the New York Times article about handicapped parking legislation and gave some information regarding where to find it in the CT section of the New York Times.

#### *Process for New Commission applicants*

David Hicks had previously circulated some questions that would be used to interview potential Commissioners and asked if there were any additional questions, of which there were not. There was a motion to accept the interview questions as internal interview questions. Chris Getlein seconded the motion which unanimously carried.

#### *Film Series*

Dana Canevari reported she met with Jamie French of Gateway Community College. Dana was under the impression that the film series on disability issues Ms. French is in charge of would be showing commercial films. Ms. French pointed out that in order for an institution to run a commercial movie it has to be licensed to do so. At this point, Gateway College lacks this license and is only able to show documentaries. She was interested in partnering with the Commission, as getting an audience can be difficult and pooling publicity resources would be a help. Such collaboration is only possible for showing documentaries at Gateway at this time.

David Hicks asked a question about whether smaller, independent movies would fall under the same licensing restriction, and whether charging admission makes a difference. Dana Canevari said that it made no difference. Matt Ranelli reported there was an article in the New Haven Register about the New Haven Library and their film series was delayed as they just got this license that is required. David Hicks asked if there was a venue established at Gateway College and Dana Canevari said that there was no venue at this time.

#### *Gateway College Construction Plans*

David Hicks said he would e-mail Peter McCann, who is Project Director for the State for the Gateway Construction site. Linda Reeder said she ran into a colleague who works at DPW who told her the architect who designed Gateway College, including the accessibility planning, is based in New York and comes to Connecticut on Wednesdays. Linda Reeder's colleague did not have high hopes for the architect's availability to meet with the Commission on a Monday evening. There were suggestions on other ways they could be in contact with her such as a video tape presentation.

#### *New Business*

There was no new business

#### Announcements

Elaine Quinn reported there would be a chocolate tasting event to support a fundraiser for opening a Montessori school in New Haven. Elaine Quinn is part of the Committee to help bring the school to New Haven.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned.