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Promoting
 **Accessibility**
In New Haven

DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
June 9, 2008

Present: Dana Canevari, Chris Getlein, David Hicks, Stan Kontogiannis, Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli
Linda Reeder, Heiwa Salovitz, Delma Skinner, Robin Tousey-Ayers

Staff: Michelle Duprey

Minutes

David Hicks opened the meeting and a quorum was established. The minutes for May were reviewed. David Hicks made an addition to the minutes. Linda Reeder made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, which was seconded. A vote was taken. Dana Canevari abstained and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman's report

A letter went out to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles inviting him to attend the next meeting on July 14, 2008.

David Hicks received a call from reporter Gregory Hladky, who previously had covered the designated parking issue and proposed bill in the *New Haven Register*. He is now a freelance reporter and is doing a follow-up article for the *New York Times*. After some discussion it was decided that although the timing of this article is not ideal, as the legislative session is over, it would be good to build support.

There was additional discussion regarding the proposed Bill itself. David Hicks suggested that the Commission might propose to the Transportation Committee that next year's bill might set aside some proportion of the revenue from fines for infractions of the law to help fund the bill. It was decided to see if the Chief of Police Association and the CT Conference on Municipalities would be in support of such a proposal.

Department Report

Michelle Duprey reported that she has been working on an event with the Department of Justice. There was some brief discussion about the event itself.

She reported that the Connect-ability contract is getting finalized.

Michelle Duprey said that the movie "Music Within" will be shown at the Elm Street Library on July 10, 2008. The Department is co-sponsoring the showing.

Old Business

Linda Reeder brought some posters advertising the ADA anniversary celebration in which the Spokebenders will be presenting a wheelchair basketball demonstration game on the New Haven Green in July. There was discussion about the posters as well as the event itself. Michelle Duprey will coordinate a press release through the Mayor's office.

Elaine Quinn reported that she wrote the letters that were requested of her from the previous meeting concerning housing assistance provided for by HR 5772. David Hicks said he would make sure they went out with dispatch.

New Business

The web page for the Commission is out of date. It was decided that David Hicks and Delma Skinner will work on updating it.

Elaine passed out an article regarding affordable housing included in the Shartenberg site. The Housing Authority of New Haven (HANH) has approved 20 affordable units. Becker and Becker are the developer and architectural firm. Linda Reeder said she thought that all of the units will have to be adaptable and a certain portion will have to be accessible. There was discussion as to whether some one should contact Jimmy Miller to see how many of the units are accessible. It was decided that Elaine Quinn will contact HANH and if unable to connect with someone there, Linda Reeder will follow up with the architecture firm.

Other Business

Heiwa Salovitz commented that although the Transportation Committee hasn't met recently, there are new developments. Kristin Barber of the Department has been working with Bill Scalzi from Metro Cab who is very interested in accessible cabs. She has arranged a meeting with Donna Carter, of Greater New Haven Transit District so that they might act as a fiduciary for federal funds in order to purchase two vans and establish a voucher program.

There was additional discussion regarding the ADA celebration and the Spokebenders. It was decided that Robin Tousey Ayers would contact someone she knew to see if arrangements could be made for a rain location at a New Haven public school.

Announcements

Robin Tousey Ayers' significant other, Ken, was given the TAPS award by the school. He received the award for being an outstanding parent.

Linda Reeder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and moved. The meeting adjourned.