



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

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

**DAVID HICKS**  
*Chairperson*

## **APPROVED**

### **Commission on Disabilities Minutes** **June 14, 2010**

Present: Dana Canevari, Chris Getlein, David Hicks, Stan Kontogiannis,  
Elaine Quinn, Linda Reeder, Heiwa Salovitz, RobinTousey-Ayers

Absent: Matthew Ranelli

Staff: Michelle Duprey

The meeting was brought to order and the May 2010 minutes were reviewed. Chris Getlein moved to accept the minutes as written which was seconded by Stan Kontogiannis and unanimously approved.

#### **Chairman's Report**

David Hicks reported he has been working on the regulations governing DMV's administration of disability parking. He reported that he has seen one of the new placards, with an expiration date and space for the last 5 digits of the placard holder's license number, but no printed digits. He took this matter up with Mr. Tom Ruby of DMV and got the regulation changed to specify that it is the obligation of the Commissioner of DMV to print the digits on the placard. David Hicks also advocated that an explicit connection be made in the regulations requiring that the different databases for license and placard be connected, as an aid to enforcement. Mr. Ruby said that DMV is working on this connection.

#### **Department Report**

Michelle Duprey attended an emergency preparedness meeting. She said there are many changes occurring on the Federal level that will eventually work their way down to the State level. One example of this is that there will need to be a representative proportion of people with disabilities present during the mock drills. Michelle Duprey said she will distribute the changes when they become available.

She announced she will be going to an ADA Consortium and there will be an ADA Celebration at the Capitol on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. The Commissioners should be receiving invitations to the event at the Capitol.

The Department's budget was approved without any changes.

## Old Business

Website- There was a discussion about pictures being on the website and about possible updates in the future.

## Film Series

Elaine Quinn stated that she approached the Historical Society about having a film series, but the proposal was declined. They thought it did not fit their format as it needs to be about local history. A rather lengthy discussion took place as to whether disability culture could be considered a cultural group like an ethnic group. It was pointed out that people with disabilities that moved to New Haven because of its accessibility. There was an inquiry as to whether there might be anyone available to look at the history of disability in New Haven, and not in a statistical viewpoint. Stan Kontogiannis said he would contact SCSU to see if there were students there interested in doing research on the topic. After more discussion, Elaine Quinn agreed that she would, given more information, be willing to reapproach the Historical Society.

## Diagnosis of a Faun

Dana Canevari reported the conversation she had with Marc Anthony Gallucci at CDR. They can provide some funds if it is spent by mid November. She described her efforts at trying to obtain specifications from the Cooperative High School as well as her interactions with the production theatrical manager and choreographer of the piece. It was decided that she would get the minimum specifications in writing from the Production Company and then contact venues.

## New Business

Robin Tousey Ayers wanted to have a sympathy card sent regarding the passing of Noble Barker, Founder and Artistic Director of the New Haven Ballet. It was agreed that Michelle Duprey has a sympathy card and will be sent on behalf of the Commission and the Department. Noble Barker was instrumental in starting "Shared Ability" dance through the New Haven Ballet.

Heiwa Salovitz reported a personal experience of being robbed recently and thought the Commission may want to take up this issue. After much discussion, it was agreed to invite the Chief of Police to an upcoming meeting to discuss what can be done to prevent these types of occurrences for people with disabilities in the future.

Heiwa Salovitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Dana seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.