



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

**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**  
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**DAVID HICKS**  
*Chairperson*

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
**May 12, 2008**

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

Absent: Dana Canevari, Stan Kontogiannis

Staff: Michelle Duprey

David Hicks opened the meeting and a quorum was established. The April 2008 minutes were reviewed. Chris Getlein suggested two minor amendments to the minutes. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as amended.

**Chairman's Report**

**Bill 499**

David Hicks talked about Senate Bill 499 (regarding Designated Parking Permits) which he stated "ran into a stealth approach by DMV." The DMV had publicly stated they were in favor of the program but then put in a funding request for 12 full time motor vehicle inspector positions plus \$300, 000 in request for software upgrade. There was some discussion about proceeding with a bill with no money attached to it, but it was thought that it was better to decline than to have an unfunded mandate. There was further discussion about how best to approach this next year.

Michelle Duprey suggested she might have a behind the scene discussion with the state's Attorney General's office regarding the discrimination that occurs as a result of not having an effective program for parking for people with disabilities. She furthermore thought the Commission could file a complaint with DOJ regarding this matter. It was suggested by Matt Ranelli that the Commission should first request a meeting with persons in a position of authority with DMV. There was further discussion on who else might be invited to such a meeting, including Senator DeFronzo and Toni Harp and Robert Megna from the New Haven delegation. There was much discussion about what approach to take and it was decided to invite people from DMV and State Representatives as a first plan of action. Robin Tousey-Ayers made a motion that a letter be drafted to a person in authority at DMV inviting them to a Commission meeting to discuss legislation that might be implemented to solve the parking problems. The motion was seconded by Chris Getlein and was unanimously approved. Michelle Duprey offered to draft this letter.

**Department Report**

Michelle Duprey reported that the contract for the Connect-ability RFQ is completed. The Department will be conducting the strategic planning phase and should be completed with that phase within about six months. The plan will be submitted for approval and once approved will be implemented.

Michelle Duprey reviewed the past issues she had with the Elm Street Library regarding the showing of the documentary "Rolling". She had suggested they show "Music Within". As it has turned out, she has been invited to sponsor a showing of "Music Within" which will occur in July.

Michelle mentioned again an ADA Business Connection Leadership meeting at which she is speaking that is sponsored by the Department of Justice on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners are invited to attend.

Robin Tousey-Ayers asked more about the purpose of Connect-ability. Michelle Duprey explained that the strategic plan was to work with Youth@Work to improve transition for youth with disabilities to employment and secondary education. The strategic planning process would give more definition to the goal.

### Old Business

The CT Spokebenders have agreed to provide a demonstration game on July 22 on the New Haven Green. There was much discussion about the event, and possible rain arrangements. It was decided that David Hicks will make a follow up contact with Stan Koslowski regarding the event.

### New Business

Linda Reeder reported that the CT Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' Building Performance and Regulations Committee would like to co-sponsor the Spokebenders event in celebration of the anniversary of the ADA. Because the committee has no budget, they would like to help publicize the event. Linda Reeder made a motion to have this group be a co-sponsor. Matt Ranelli seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Elaine Quinn brought up the Bill HR 5772. This bill is known as the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2008. The bill proposes an innovative section 811 demonstration program and includes long overdue reforms to existing section 811 programs (See attached). Elaine Quinn described the bill and gave an overview, reading a letter from NAMI to the Legislators who are sponsoring this Bill. Elaine Quinn made a motion that the Commission on Disabilities should write a letter of sponsorship to the Representatives who have introduced HR 5772 and suggested that the letter be sent to local legislators to support the bill as well. Linda Reeder seconded the motion which was unanimously passed. Elaine agreed to draft the letter.

Transportation Committee- No report. Heiwa Salovitz reported on the upcoming Transportation Forum on May 15 at the CT Expo Center.

### Other Business

Elaine Quinn is a member of the Community Service Network of New Haven. She mentioned that this is Mental Health month. She passed around a calendar that came out from CSN with numerous activities and movies of interest.

Heiwa Salovitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Robin Tousey Ayers and passed. The meeting adjourned.