



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

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

**Approved**

**Commission on Disabilities Minutes**  
**November 10, 2008**

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

Absent: Stan Kontogiannis, Delma Skinner

Staff: Kristin Barber

David Hicks opened the meeting and a quorum was established. The minutes for October were reviewed and a motion was made by Chris Getlein and seconded by Dana Canevari to approve the minutes as written. The October minutes were unanimously approved.

**Chairman's Report**

David Hicks received an e-mail back from Stan Koslowski that the "Spokebenders" would be happy to play a pair of games on a single date. They would play the same team two times. David Hicks said he sent Michelle Duprey an e-mail to arrange for a conference call with Stan Koslowski and himself but has not heard back from Michelle Duprey. There were some additional questions regarding the tentative plans which David Hicks will continue to work on.

David Hicks reported that Senator DeFronzo was reelected. David Hicks has sent an e-mail regarding accessible parking legislation to the senator's legislative aide, Mr. Rick Lopes, and is waiting for reply. He will follow up if he does not hear anything back from the Senator in the very near future.

**Department Report**

*Connect-Ability Grant*; Kristin Barber reported that the Department has been working on the Connect-Ability strategic planning phase of the grant.

She also mentioned the wheelchair taxi initiative and the Channel 8 news article that Michelle Duprey recently participated in. Kristin Barber updated the Commission members on the latest developments with the project.

**Old Business**

*Established Election Committee*

It was decided that Robin Tousey Ayers and Elaine Quinn would serve as the Committee and make its recommendations at the December meeting.

### *Website Update*

Delma Skinner was not at the meeting so David Hicks discussed the topic with the Commission. It was decided after discussion that he will update the website and bring the proposed changes to the next meeting for review.

### New Business

#### *Trees of Hope*

The Commission received an invitation to the Trees of Hope Preview party on December 5. Three people decided they would like to go. Kristin Barber will send in their RSVP.

Although the Commission will not be participating in the Trees of Hope this year, there was discussion around fundraising in general. Elaine Quinn asked what happened with an effort begun several years ago to develop a non-profit corporation through the Department. Linda Reeder will follow up with Michelle Duprey to ask the status of that effort.

#### *Disability Planning Committee in Westport*

Copies of a newspaper article were given to Commission members regarding a public hearing in Westport on the degree to which businesses are complying with ADA access requirements. David Hicks inquired of the group whether they were interested in holding a similar event. Linda Reeder felt that instead of a hearing, that they start with e-mail or other means to get a response from a larger number of people. Heiwa Salovitz thought it would be good to generate interest in the larger community. Linda Reeder is concerned that people would not attend a hearing. There was a larger discussion about other ways to accomplish access awareness. Elaine Quinn suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce. After more discussion it was agreed that Linda Reeder would contact a member of the AIA to see if they would be available to do a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce regarding accessibility and the Commission members would be present. It was decided to move forward with this project but that it would be targeted for 2009.

### Other Business

Elaine Quinn attended a meeting in Westport concerning supported housing and advocacy. She brought back a notebook full of housing resources which she gave to David Hicks for him to review and perhaps share portions of it with the Commission. Elaine Quinn talked more about the workshop.

Heiwa Salovitz talked about the Fight the Hike efforts, which are public hearings regarding the proposed rate increases by United Illuminating. He said there was another hearing at the Hall of Records on December 8 at 5 pm.

### Announcements

Robin Tousey Ayes said that her son will be participating in the presentation of the Nutcracker Suite at the Shubert Theatre in December sponsored by the New Haven Ballet.

Dana Canevari made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Chris Geitlein and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned.