



JOHN DeSTEFANO, JR.
Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
CITY OF NEW HAVEN
165 CHURCH STREET
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510
(203) 946-7833 - VOICE (203) 946-8582 - TTY/TDD
(203) 946-8587 - FAX

Promoting
 **Accessibility**
In New Haven

DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Approved

Commission on Disabilities Minutes
October 18, 2010

Present: Dana Canevari, Jason Gomez, David Hicks, RobinTousey-Ayers

Absent: Elaine Quinn, Matthew Ranelli, Linda Reeder

Staff: Michelle Duprey

The meeting was brought to order. The minutes for September were reviewed and Dana Canevari made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Robin Tousey-Ayers seconded and the motion passed.

Chairman's Report

David Hicks reported he has been keeping in touch with DMV regarding the changes they are making in the handicapped parking regulations, as well as their 'modernization', i.e. the upgrade of their computer and online systems. Part of this is a web page that allows online certification by physicians. David Hicks has been in communication with Dr. Gary Cohen, a physician, who is interested in working with the Commission to educate physicians on the importance of following the regulations when certifying patients for placards. Dr. Cohen will meet the Commission in the near future and David Hicks has agreed to speak with a physicians group along with Dr. Cohen.

David Hicks mentioned a TV news item covering DMV's public announcement on changes to the law, especially the new expiration dates, with the result that lifetime placards will no longer be issued. The DMV announcement was also in the New Haven Register.

There was an article from Maryland which has too many placards also. More discussion took place about other states and their vigilance.

Department Report

Michelle Duprey reported about the media activity which took place around the Metro Taxi accessible cab and voucher program. There were some questions about the voucher program, which Michelle answered. (For clarification, taxis are able to give rides to people as long as the ride either begins or ends in their territory.)

Also she talked about the public hearings at West Haven regarding installation of a compressed natural gas (CNG) station at Metro Taxi, which she and other disability advocates from the area will be attending.

The next hurdle is getting more accessible cabs, other than the ones purchased by the New Freedom Fund Initiative. In order to do this, Bill Scalzi has requested an expedited hearing at DOT in order to ask for an expanded taxi territory for both Metro and Yellow cab (in Hartford area).

David Hicks offered to write a letter of support on behalf of the Commission. He will draft a letter and send it. A motion was made to approve a letter be sent. David Hicks made the motion and Robin Tousey-Ayers seconded it, and it was so moved.

David Hicks asked Michelle Duprey about some follow up issues that included whether she followed up with Mike Piscitelli about deputizing Commissioners to photograph and report handicapped parking violators. He also asked whether Michelle Duprey had spoken with Pattie Lawlor in the Mayor's office about relocation. Michelle Duprey had not followed up with Mike Piscitelli and she said she was working on another alternative for a meeting place.

Old Business

By Laws

There was nothing new to report. Michelle Duprey was not able to speak to Corporation Counsel about revisions to by-laws.

New Business

Crime prevention workshop

There was a follow up discussion about the concept that Police Chief Limon suggested concerning holding a crime prevention workshop. David Hicks addressed the Commission on what their thoughts were on providing a workshop and content. Michelle Duprey said she had a booklet from the Victims of Crime. She also mentioned that she is not part of the in-service training this year for the Police Department. There was a discussion about what is included in their training.

Jason Gomez recommended working through the Community Management Teams. He further suggested that a proposal get put together after some research was done regarding workshop content. David Hicks suggested that a crime prevention tip sheet be put on the Police webpage as is done in other cities. He went on to say that maybe the tip sheet could get used and be presented by the Police at the Community Management Team monthly meetings. Further discussion needs to occur.

Schedule of Meetings for 2011

The schedule was accepted, as written with the exception of the February meeting date, which will be on the 7th. This was agreed to in a motion made by David Hicks, seconded by Jason Gomez and unanimously approved.

Nominations for officers

There was discussion about a ballot. What was discussed was to continue with the current officers. This issue and a vote will take place next month.

Other business

Dana Canevari talked about her collaboration with CDR for “Diagnosis of a Faun” performance. She found a venue and will continue to work with CDR on this project.

There was a motion to adjourn which was seconded and moved. The meeting adjourned.