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Mayor

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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DAVID HICKS
Chairperson

Approved Minutes

Commission on Disabilities Minutes **September 8, 2008**

Present: Chris Getlein, David Hicks, Elaine Quinn, Linda Reeder, Heiwa Salovitz,

Absent: Stan Kontogiannis, Matthew Ranelli, Delma Skinner, Robin Tousey-Ayers

Staff: Michelle Duprey

David Hicks opened the meeting and a quorum was established.

The minutes for the August meeting were reviewed and a motion by Heiwa Salovitz to accept the minutes as written was seconded and met with unanimous approval. Dana Canevari and Elaine Quinn abstained from voting.

Chairman's Report

David Hicks reported that he has been trying to follow up to get a Spokebenders event scheduled at Wilbur Cross High School during the Spokebender's league season. He has not been able to contact Dave DeSelice but will continue with that effort.

David Hicks reported that he sent Delma Skinner the link to the Commission webpage and hoped to receive Delma's suggestions for changes in the near future.

Elaine Quinn mentioned that she received an invitation to a luncheon from Karen Dubois Walter, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of New Haven. Michelle Duprey said that all of the Commissioners were invited. Elaine Quinn said she will be attending the meeting. It was further mentioned that Karen Dubois Walton will be attending the October meeting of the Commission on Disabilities.

David Hicks received a letter from DMV Commissioner Ward and read it to the group. The letter stated that Commissioner Ward has established a task force and a requirement that the handicapped parking placards be reviewed periodically. Mr. Ward encouraged David Hicks to bring his enforcement suggestions to the Connecticut legislators, as enforcement of the law is not the province of DMV. David Hicks said he would follow up with Senator DeFronzo's aide. The senator plans to contact police agencies to see if more support can be generated for the enforcement component of a bill.

Department Report

Michelle Duprey reported the Department continues to work on the strategic planning phase of the Connect-Ability Grant, as well as a transportation grant through the New Freedom Initiative.

Michelle Duprey told Commissioners that her office was relocated but is still in the same general area. With regard to questions regarding staff cuts, Michelle Duprey reported there is a possibility that the Department could be cut owing to city budget constraints if no union concessions take place.

Old Business

Delma Skinner was not present at the meeting. David Hicks talked about some of the possible changes to the website. David Hicks will confer with Delma Skinner in the near future about some of his ideas for improvement.

New Business

Elaine Quinn stated there would be a Disability Rights Convention and Exhibition on September 27, 2008 and was interested in knowing who would be attending.

Other Business

Linda Reeder stated that the AIA BP&R Committee is interested in co-sponsoring the Spokebenders event at Wilbur Cross High School.

Public Comments

No Comments

Heiwa Salovitz moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dana Canevari seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned.