

Watertown Commission on Disability Meeting Minutes

Wed., Sept 19th, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. By Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL: Kim Charlson, Chair; Councilor Steve Corbett; George Donohue; Anne Doughty; John Hawes; Fred Isaacs; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell, WCOD Intern; and Carol Wilson-Braun.

Guest: Anna Petrie, intern at Church of the Good Shepherd.

Absent: Judith Herzberg and Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator.

AUDIENCE ISSUES: Anna Petrie is an intern at the Episcopal Church through the Episcopal Service Corps for 32 hrs/wk. Her general focus is on inclusion of people with disabilities within the church body and she is interested in learning more about disability related issues in Watertown. She is planning a listening forum with community/political officials at the church.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Kim. 1) Jeanne is organizing the schedule to cover the table at Faire on the Square this Saturday. There will be two interpreters. 2) There was a meeting of Watertown Emergency Preparedness at the police department on 8/22, the first meeting of the planning process. Present were the health dept, fire and police departments and Kim. They went through different scenarios of handling various situations. At the next meeting, the community will be assessed, and a discussion of shelters and emergency locations.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes for 7/18. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Jeanne reporting for Gayle. There were questions about the math on the report. Further discussion and vote tabled until October when Gayle can address.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

a) Art Exhibit- Anne is receiving inquiries about the upcoming exhibit. There has been one actual application and 8 people interested (5 phone calls and 3 emails). Three repeats from last year, 5 new artists from Mass Commission Task Force on Artists with Disabilities. The deadline is Oct 15. The reception is set. Anna volunteered to help set up. George and Anne will do publicity.

b) Web Stats- George. 83% were new visitors. Dining guide is the most looked at page. George recommends streamlining the website. For example, fewer pages and links since people will find related websites through their search engines, but

keeping major ones such as Mass Commission on Disability. Carol M suggested a page for local resources such as Springwell. Everyone agreed on links for service agencies but not businesses. A sub-committee was formed of Carol M, Carol W-B and Kim to make recommendations about resources and will give George feedback.

c)Closed Caption- Steve. Stephanie covered the last town council meeting which went well except for a cable problem with on-line streaming. No cable director has been hired yet. Jeanne said many have applied. Question for Gayle: live streaming and a back-up procedure is needed when Stephanie is on vacation. Carol M: There needs to be coordination with the remote captioning company as back up. She will talk with the new director. Steve will provide notice for the council to keep them aware. Kim suggested introducing meetings with the announcement that closed captioning is sponsored by WCOD, or announce that there is none this month.

d)Special Ed- Fred stated that Dr Stephen Shore will speak on 9/26 about “disclosing a diagnosis to one’s own children”

e) Safety and Access- Kim. Audible signals are being fixed. Jeanne stated that the signal survey was almost completely done. Per Kim’s request, she will submit it to us for discussion first. Jeanne stated that she is being sent a video of Watertown Square made by a Perkins graduate who says the intersection is unsafe.

f) Plans Review- John. Discussed plans for Riverfront Apartments. There is an issue with shallow sinks, and a request not to install them in HP apartments. They will have shallow ones available to install on request.

g) Restaurant Guide- Kim said it won’t be ready for the Faire, but will be ready by next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS-

1)Watertown River Front Project update- John. The DCR is 50% of the way through the review. John represented Perkins. The project is moving along. The Perkins side will include a Braille trail and garden. There will be outlooks along the river, an accessible pathway and pedestrian light at Irving St.

2)SpedPac Apple Technology proposal update- Fred. Money was transferred to the schools. The SpecPac meeting on Oct 10th will kick off the technology library.

3)Super Fitness complaint- John. There’s an accessibility sign and a side accessible door now unlocked. MAAB has to check it out and agree the complaint has been resolved. The building inspector will be notified.

4) Social Service Coordinator position- Steve. It is still being discussed in Budget and Human resources committee of town council. Will Twombly is updating the proposal.

5) Trash/Recycling- Since the toters, trash has decreased 25% and recycling increased 40%. Concerns were discussed about disabled, and about capacity of the toters. Jeanne is concerned about the truck and low hanging wires. People are concerned about the winter. John recommends weekly recycling.

NEW BUSINESS-

1) UCPA Documentary- Carol M. Possible screening of Shooting Beauty in January. \$250 screening fee. DVD, promotional materials, subjects could come to answer questions. Include interpreter, refreshments. Hold at library or Hosmer auditorium? It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to authorize the screening and to give up to \$600 for the screening. Carol M will consult with UCPA about dates, snow date, etc.

2) List of HP parking locations- Jeanne. She needs to get permission to create a form to fill out. DPW has a public spaces map with blue dots which was just finished (not official yet) and includes every establishment with HP spaces. Private spaces are not so clear. Street parking and municipal lots will be mapped out. We need criteria for spaces. John asked if this was an investigative or directive effort. We must distinguish between apartment complexes and business lots. Public verses private. George will identify town spots to update. Make clearer what type of data to collect (i.e., information on signs or what needs to be replaced or fixed, if painted lines or no lines are present, what's missing or needed, etc). Jeanne noted there was a bill on Beacon Hill about parking spaces. Kim stated that the priorities are public spaces in municipal lots and private businesses with large parking lots (>25 spaces). John said that 5% were required to be HP parking. He will get more info.

3) Partners for Youth and Disabilities- George. We voted to give them \$10,000 in July of 2011, but then they moved to Chinatown and experienced decreased participation. They are now back at the Brighton Y. So now we can give the money for them to target Watertown youth. A program of Making Healthy Connections starts in Oct. We need to let them know that our offer will end in June, 2013, to ensure action.

4) Kim wants the commission to think about giving holiday gifts to local non-profit organizations, and also consider potential speakers for upcoming meeting(s) from fire and police departments. George will help to arrange speakers.

It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.
The next meeting will take place on Wed., Oct. 17th.

**These minutes are recorded and respectfully submitted by Carol Wilson-Braun,
Secretary**