

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chair Kim Charlson.

ROLL CALL- Kim Charlson, Chair; John Hawes; Jeff Holman, Intern; Fred Isaacs; Carol Menton; Rachele Natale; Jeanne O'Connell; and Carol Wilson-Braun.

Absent- Steven Corbett, Town Councilor; Judith Herzberg; and Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator.

Guest- George Donahue.

The Committee report for Able Arts was presented first due to technical difficulties with Stefanie's computer and delay of transcription for Rachele and Carol M.

COMMITTEE REPORT- Able Arts- Rachele shared a new email with the Commission. She reported that the Library exhibit space was confirmed for October of 2015. She has been in contact with Lisa from Turtle Studios, who thinks they will be relocated by the end of September. There has been no reply yet from Arsenal on the Arts. Rachele spoke of wanting to compile an index of arts activities with links to disabilities. During discussion, Kim wanted clarification the purpose and breadth of this endeavor and asked Rachele to come up with a proposal for our August meeting for a project that fits within the scope of WCOD's mission- that of serving the disabled population of Watertown and benefitting Watertown. George also suggested the WCOD could host an event with VSA that would reach out to the community, and Jeanne suggested putting info into an article for the TAB.

There was no CHAIR'S REPORT.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES- It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Copies of the minutes may be requested from the Town Clerk's Office.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Kim had a question of whether the New Repertory Theatre obtained the money that we authorized last year, and Jeff replied that they had arranged it through Gayle. Jeff invited them to the Sept. meeting. It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for May. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

a) Plans Review- John said there would be a review of the site plan at a meeting on Tuesday morning, and for the hotel project on 7/10. The Arsenal St project will have 296

units (1-2 bedroom apartments) and retail space. There is consideration of a bike path from Home Depot to Greenough Blvd.

- b) Closed Caption- Carol said she watched a Town Council meeting on cable 4 weeks ago when Beverly Scott from the MBTA was a speaker. Stefanie did very well. Stefanie said all the problems have been ironed out! (Everyone applauded)
- c) Special Ed- Fred said they had their planning meeting, and met the new Special Ed director- Brian Rachmaciej. He ran a program at Boston Technical School and has a strong background in psychology. Fred said they came up with a list of potential speakers. The Sept. meeting will be to meet the Special Ed director, and October will cover basic rights. Fred said he heard the head of MGH Dept of Psychiatry speak on bullying and was quite impressed. They will try to get him for a speaker.
- d) Safety and Access- There were no updates on the follow-through with Lisa Chiango's concerns about the signals. It is in process. Stefanie found out that Gerry Mee is not available to come to a meeting until fall.
- e) Website Update- George gets a monthly list from the office about closings and openings of restaurants. For openings, someone needs to go check it out. George will show Jeff how to update the website.

ONGOING BUSINESS-

- a) Watertown Sped PAC funding request. Fred said they were trying to involve more parents. One parent is interested in a music project. They will try to use other schools than just the Hosmer for meetings. It was MOVED, seconded and passed unanimously to provide funding of \$3100/yr for 2 years for SPED PAC. Fred abstained from the vote.
- b) Kim brought up the funding request for the Gubernatorial Candidate Forum. It is being supported by Arlington, Somerville and Watertown. It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to fund the June 26th gubernatorial forum event as co-sponsor for \$300.
- c) Waterfront Project- Kim said there is now a construction fence. A groundbreaking event will take place 7/1 at 11:30 a.m. John attended the meeting and stated that there will be more work on the path to the east. Dan Driscoll anticipates the work to be done by November, however the pedestrian light at Irving St will take longer.
- d) Handicapped Parking- Jeanne wanted to know if the town council members have read the report. Jeff will ask Gayle. Many prioritized recommendations were included.
- e) Delta Wrap-up- George and John looked at the area. The T should consider ramping the area, because it is difficult for strollers as well. It wasn't addressed at the town council meeting, but is in sub-committee (public works or traffic commission). Jeff will ask Gayle to check on the status.

NEW BUSINESS-

George mentioned that the Senate Bill #1869 (An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board) has outdated language that needs to be changed, such as referencing "persons with disabilities" instead of "handicapped persons" and urged contacting our reps to get it passed.

There will be no meeting in July this year.

The next meeting will take place on Wed., August 20th at 7 p.m.

It was MOVED, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

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