

Watertown Commission on Disability

149 Main St. Watertown, MA. 02472

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 16th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Fred Isaacs, Vice-Chair.

ROLL CALL- Fred Isaacs, Vice-Chair; Carol Menton; Jeanne O'Connell; Megan O'Halloran; Gayle Shattuck, Town Personnel Director and ADA Coordinator; and Carol Wilson-Braun. Absent- Chair Kim Charlson; Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor; and John Hawes.

Guests- Kathy Button and Chuck Dickenson from the World in Watertown; Carolyn Hall, from the Institute of Community Inclusion, UMass Boston; and Elan Rohde, president of Watertown Autism Family Support Group.

GUEST SPEAKERS-

Carolyn Hall was invited to come talk about the program of victim assistance for the Marathon bombing victims. UMass Boston received a grant from the MA Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA), and for 1 ½ years has been working with people in the Boston area and also outside the area by Skype. They have been reaching out to anyone impacted by that event, helping people make lifestyle changes, deal with injuries including PTSD, and helping them connect with services. The federal grant will be ending soon but state funding will continue. Other programs from the Institute include a PhD program in global inclusion, public policy work, and grants looking at many populations and inclusion.

Kathy Button is on the Unity Breakfast subcommittee of the World in Watertown, and spoke briefly of the next Unity Breakfast on Jan 16th (the 17th annual event), which is attended by about 400 people. The speaker this year will be Justice Geraldine Heinz. Renee Landers will be the MC. Kathy requested funding from the Commission to help them provide CART service, which will be approximately \$400. We will take a vote next month.

CHAIR'S REPORT- Fred. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to purchase 50 MRC spiral bound booklets for \$350 for use at the Faire on the Square and in Town Hall. Carol M. mentioned that a 2nd booklet by MOD may need to be reordered as well.

Information was distributed by Gayle to the Commission members about the conflict of interest law, and its application to us was discussed.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT- It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report for October. Copies of the Treasurer's report may be requested from the town's ADA Coordinator in the Personnel Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

- 1) Plans Review- John had submitted a copy of a recent decision for our information.
- 2) Closed Captioning- Carol M. said there was an issue of the captioning cutting off at 9 p.m. Helen has not heard back about it yet. They hope to have a resolution by next meeting.
- 3) Special Ed and Safety and Access- No reports. From the audience, Elan Rohde asked Gayle how to submit receipts for payment of our \$2500 grant to the Autism Family Support Group.

NEW BUSINESS-

- 1) Carol M. sent information to Mohammed Seyed. He has produced an electronic copy of his comic book. Carol said she would forward it to the Commission. He has been looking for various sources of funding. Carol encouraged him to approach us for help. He went to the independent comics expo on the recommendation of Fred.
- 2) Gayle wondered if we had a quorum for the December meeting, and it was determined that we will. It was moved, seconded and VOTED unanimously to allocate no more than \$200 for food for our December meeting. Last year, we spent just over \$100.

The next meeting will take place on December 21st at 7 p.m. There will be food.

It was moved, seconded and VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.

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