

# **TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**

## **MINUTES**

### **Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

**March 12, 2018**

**7:00PM Town Hall, Room 400**

1. Call meeting to order
  - a. Meeting commenced at 7:12pm
  - b. All members were present
  
2. Business
  - a. Introductions
    - i. The Commission is currently made up of seven (7) members with one (1) administrative liaison. Members introduced themselves describing their interest in the Commission and time served as a member.
  - b. Commission Roster
    - i. The Commission currently has three (3) vacancies with a pending fourth as current Chair, Josh Rucker, reminded the Commission he is currently serving as interim chair until an individual is identified to serve as Chair. Josh Rucker intends to step away from the Commission.
    - ii. Discussion was held to identify opportunities to post and broadcast the current Commission vacancies to recruit new members. We-Ha.com, the West Hartford Patch, the Town website and Leadership Greater Hartford were identified as possible points of dissemination.
  - c. HR 620 - ADA Education and Reform Act
    - i. Mary Silverberg and Joe Kolczynski provided an overview of HR 620. The federal bill was recently passed by the U.S House of Representatives. The bill seeks to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to promote compliance through education, to clarify the requirements for demand letters, to provide for a notice and cure period before the commencement of a private civil action, and for other purposes.
    - ii. Discussion was held about the harm such a bill would cause on the rights and protections for persons with disabilities.
    - iii. The Commission agreed to develop communication (e.g. Op-Ed letter) to broaden awareness and to condemn the passing of the bill.
  - d. Website Update
    - i. Josh Rucker provided a slide deck of screenshots presenting an updated design to the Commission's website. The current website, made available through the Town's website, provides only the Commission members' contact information.

A website update would include the following main categories: About, Selected projects, Resources, Members, Contact

- e. 2018 Strategic Plan
    - i. Discussion was held to identify projects/initiatives for 2018. The following were identified:
      - 1. Snow removal - enhanced communication around the importance of maintaining accessibility during the winter
      - 2. Celebrate West Hartford - the Commission had a booth in 2017. The Commission is seeking partnerships to have another booth for 2018. Possible partnerships include: Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, Senior Citizens Commission. Registration to secure a booth is due mid-April
      - 3. Voting - additional trainings are needed for voting volunteers/staff to under the rights of voters with disabilities
3. Adjournment
- a. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm
  - b. Next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday May 14th, 2018 Room 217

Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact the ADA Coordinator as soon as possible but no later than 7 days beforehand:

**Town of West Hartford ADA Coordinator**

Suzanne Oslander, Community Partnerships Coordinator and ADA Coordinator

Town of West Hartford Social Services

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