

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
MINUTES
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
March 13, 2022
7:00PM Elmwood Community Room 110

- Call meeting to order
 - Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
 - Members present: Joe Kolczynski, Mary Silverberg, Kimberly Jacobsen, Kim Grehn, Christy Miller, Tara McNeil, Amy Messinger, Erin Conneely, Jason Mirsky, Ann Mione, Suzanne Oslander
- Guest Speaker – Nick Delaney Ed.D. “Go Baby Go”
- Minutes from November 14, 2022 meeting were approved.
- Report Suzanne Oslander – (Town ADA Coordinator, Department of Social Services)
 - a) Kennedy Park: The renovation of the Kennedy Bathhouse is underway and includes new family changing rooms and updated fixtures throughout the building. We have found family changing rooms allow adults with disabilities who require assistance to access the facility more easily. The overhaul will also improve this neighborhood facility, which is located in a low to moderate income neighborhood. The work should be complete before the pools open in mid-June.
 - b) Wolcott Park: The Wolcott Park Restroom is in design. The design calls for four single use ADA compliant, gender-neutral restrooms to service the park. The renovation is anticipated to take place in the Fall and Winter of 2023.
- CERT Team Report (Ann Mione)
 - a) New training starts this week.
 - b) Commission member Christy Miller has recently joined the CERT team.
- New Business
 - a) Pedestrian Safety; A lively discussion concerning members’ experiences of numerous close calls with vehicles while navigating streets during normal activities. The following specific events were addressed.
 1. During a right-hand turn, drivers look only to the left.
 2. Failure to stop at stop signs and redlights.
 3. Excessive speed.
 4. Driver distractions
 - b) Vision Zero Task Force – Update (Erin Conneely)

1. Vision Zero was originally a European initiative to make streets more walkable.
 2. Noting various locations in town which “Hot Spots”. That have the highest number of incidents.
 3. The focus is on altering the physical environment. (Roundabouts Etc.)
 4. Speed reduction. (Kim Grehn noted that at speeds exceeding 40 MPH result in higher numbers of fatalities.)
 5. Currently The Vision Zero Task Force is seeking suggestions from residents.
- c) New ECC: Mary shared Tecton’s rendering of new ECC as a result of all the meetings.
- d) Resignation – Stevie Ann Lis; Waiting on town to fill the vacancy.
- e) Boards and Commissions training sessions; Discussion on issues raised.
- Gust Speaker – Nick Delaney Ed.D. (Assistant Director of Student and Faculty Engagement and Director of Engineering House Learning Community)

“Go Baby Go” – Is a design modification and build of a small car (i.e. Fisher Price cars for toddlers) for young children who have physical disabilities and difficulty with mobility. Part of a national project where universities have partnered with communities for these builds across the country.

 - a) Developed program for University of Connecticut.
 - b) Developing a first-year service-learning project at CCSU
 - c) Seeking to increase the number of families who would benefit from “Go Baby Go”
 - d) Commission members suggested outreach to Birth to Three., professional associations occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech and language pathologists, school systems, Pre K learning centers, Miracle League and Beth Bye (State Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood)
 - Adjournment 7:55 – next meeting date: May 8, 2023, in ECC Auditorium at 7:00 PM.