



Commission for Citizens with Disabilities



MEETING MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Karin Decker
Madeline Nicoletti, Chair
Andrea Pianka, Vice Chair

Norman Smith III
Joanne Tirrell
Jennifer Lee

Demetrios Kanavaros

RECEIVED

MAY 18 2016

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

The regular meeting of the Commission for Citizens with Disabilities of Tuesday, March 15, 2016, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Chair Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Decker
Commissioner Kanavaros
Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Nicoletti
Commissioner Pianka
Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Tirrell

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Pianka motioned to approve the meeting minutes of the February 16, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Lee, so voted 5/1. (Commissioner Smith abstained from minutes approval due to the fact that he was not present at the February meeting, and Commissioner Decker had to leave for another meeting, as requested by the Mayor, after passing out the Conflict of Interest Law Training packets and giving a brief explanation regarding same.)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

- a. Speaker, Lillian Hebert, President of the Westfield Woman's Club, along with Barbara Trant, Assistant, were present, by invitation, to discuss the ADA updates needed to be accomplished in order for the club to continue holding public events in their building.

Commissioner Smith explained to both that private clubs are not required to keep up with ADA requirements as long as they do not hold public events on their premises. They are not required by law to update to ADA requirements at all; however, if public events are held on their premises, they open themselves up to public liability.

59 Court St.
Westfield, MA 01085

Phone: (413) 572-6201

Email: enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org

Website: cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens

The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full

President Hebert explained that the Woman's Club is a #5013C foundation and that a plan has been set up to write grants to raise funds in order to put into effect a handicap accessible plan. Their first step is to raise \$5,000.00 for this process, but they have yet to begin that phase.

Commissioner Pianka mentioned that the Commission had sent the club letters regarding ADA requirements a few years ago but had never received a reply from them. Both President Hebert and Barbara Trant stated they had never seen the letters. Commissioner Pianka said that she would send them copies for their records. She also gave them information on persons to contact for assistance on how to proceed. These names included Carol Martin, Westfield Whip Museum, Andy Bristol, who is employed by Stavros and would tour the building and give them ideas on how to begin. They can also contact Jeff Dougan, MA Office on Disabilities in Boston, if they have further questions.

NEW BUSINESS: FYI

- a. Commissioner Nicoletti passed out copies which included Baystate-Noble's President's name, Ron Bryant, a newspaper article pertaining to the ADA, a copy of a business card from a company, NEAT, who supplies quality equipment at affordable prices, along with their pamphlet. In addition, she included a 4-page ADA Q & A, regarding health care providers, and a pamphlet from the Westfield library pertaining to their Outreach Service, which brings the library to homebound citizens.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Due to the fact that Commissioner Decker had to leave to attend another meeting, Conflict of Law Training packets were distributed at the very beginning of our meeting along with an explanation of same. These should be completed as soon as possible. A copy of either the printed certificate, a signed statement (which was attached to back of the packet) or both must be returned to the Personnel Office.

- b. Election of Officers for 2016 followed before Commissioner Decker left the meeting:

Commission Chair: Commissioners Kanavaros and Pianka nominated Commissioner Nicoletti, seconded by Commissioner Tirrell, so voted 6/0.

Vice Chair: Commissioner Nicoletti nominated Commissioner Pianka, seconded by Commissioner Smith, so voted 6/0.

Secretary: Commissioner Smith nominated Commissioner Tirrell, seconded by Commissioners Pianka and Kanavaros, so voted 6/0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nicoletti motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith, so voted 6/0. Chair Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne B. Tirrell
Joanne B. Tirrell, Secretary

59 Court St.
Westfield, MA 01085

Email: enablecitizens@cityofwestfield.org

Website: cityofwestfield.org/enablecitizens

Phone: (413) 572-6201

The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full