



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, April 19, 2016, was held in City Hall, Room 201, Westfield, MA. Chair Nicoletti called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Decker
Commissioner Kanavaros
Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Nicoletti
Commissioner Pianka
Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Tirrell

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Decker motioned to change the wording in the last sentence under Scheduled Business: a. paragraph 2 to read: "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 possible liabilities." Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kanavaros; all in favor 7/0.

Therefore, the approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2016 meeting will be during the May meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Review of the Open Meeting Laws was tabled until the May meeting at which time Sue Phillips, City Solicitor, will be in attendance to go over them with us.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

a. Speaker, Andy Bristol of the Stavros Center, gave a brief overview of his history with that company. He specializes in ADA requirements, Title 2, Municipal Buildings.

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The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities strives to enable and facilitate the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in the City of Westfield.

He stated that he has spoken to the Westfield Woman's Club regarding their ADA requirements. They will work on their obligations, but it will be quite sometime before they can eventually supply better access to their building. According to Mr. Bristol, only the Department of Justice and the court system can force ADA updates. The State only has their own building code.

He also stated that they have an option to move their public performances to a venue that is easily accessible to all. If they do not, they open themselves up to public scrutiny. Also, if there are 50 or more people in attendance, they are required to install a hearing system and/or have an interpreter present for the hearing impaired. Many small entities that do not have the funds available for ADA updates and can show hardship and may be excused from their obligations.

Commissioner Lee requested Mr. Bristol to supply information for Commission members to update themselves on ADA requirements. He stated that the website: ADA.gov has many resources and videos on the subject.

He also stated that in Chicopee, MA there will be a 2-day training session on October 26th and 27th, 2016. Oct. 26th will be an 8-hour session, and the 27th will be a 6-hour session. On July 26th and 27th there will also be a 4-hour training session limited to 15 people. It will consist of 2 hours of class work, 1 hour of sight survey and 1 hour of overview.

b. For Your Information: Mark Hebert is now the interim Building Inspector for the city.

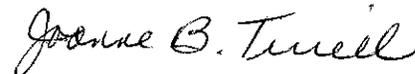
OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Update: Westfield Woman's Club: This update was given by Andy Bristol with his overview of ADA requirements.
- b. Monies from Handicap Parking Fines: Commissioner Nicoletti stated that monies from these fines are currently being held in City of Westfield account #2455440-477000 in the amount of \$40,910.00 and can only be used for improving the lives of the City's disabled citizens.
- c. Monies for Library's "Books on Tape:" This program will not be possible unless the Mayor and the City Council give their approval.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lee, so voted 7/0. Chair Nicoletti adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Joanne B. Tirrell, Secretary

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