

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

November 4, 2014

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, August DeFrance, Elderrean Paules, Marie Hurley, Keith Vinci, Joseph Carta (via phone)

Absent: Phil Cacciola, Richard Pelletier

Staff Present: Andrea Gregg, Manager of Senior Services; Karen Nocera, Recreation/Community Services

General Public: Sgt. Dave Godwin, Middletown Police Department

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:02pm.

3. Public Hearing:

Marty Knight mentioned that it was nice that there are audible walk signals on all of the corners of Main Street however someone needs to show visually impaired people exactly where the buttons are to activate the walk lights. Marty stated that there is a box on Main Street going up to Washington Street where you push the walk light button and it says "walk light is now on". He stated that no one has been willing to show anyone where the walk signals are to hit the button to activate the voice on Main Street. They have also not been shown where the poles actually are located so that they can hit the walk button. Sgt. Godwin stated that there may be buttons that can be purchased that have sounds to indicate where they are located. Marty also expressed concerned that people have been driving through the corner of Main Street and Pleasant Street even though it says "no turn on red". August DeFrance questioned how people will find where the poles/audible buttons are. Sgt. Godwin stated that if everyone coordinates a date and time, they can advertise a walkthrough of Main Street. Sgt. Godwin stated that he will research this issue with the walk signals. Keith Vinci stated that this would be a good opportunity for outreach into the community. A flyer should be sent out regarding this walk through. A discussion ensued. Marty mentioned that there is a sign on the corner of Church and Pleasant Streets that he has walked into many times and he has hit his head. Sgt. Godwin said that he would take care of that issue and have the sign adjusted. Sgt. Godwin stated that there are some other signs that he is having an issue with. He stated that the standard height for signs is 7 feet tall. A discussion ensued. A letter will be composed requesting that the height of the sign be raised to 7 feet tall. Joe Carta stated that there is an issue with the intersection of Washington Street intersection and Main Street because there is only 1 curb cut out. This is because there is a man hole at this intersection. Sgt. Godwin stated that this is a State light and he is going to ask that they add a 3 second buffer to allow for more time to cross the street. A discussion ensued.

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 7, 2014, with the correction, was made by August DeFrance and seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that although he wasn't able to attend the meeting of the new Senior Center, the Building Committee did not like the paint color on the bottom of the building because they felt that it made the remainder of the building appear dirty. The building is absolutely beautiful. The construction will be completed the week of Thanksgiving but the furniture will not

arrive until the first week of December. It is anticipated that we will be moving into the building the week of December 8th through December 12th. A discussion ensued.

- Marie Hurley gave an update regarding the Mattabasett River Plant Pump Station. All of the bids should be in by December 19th. The completion date is January or February of 2017. CL & P had to move some poles which created a hold up of the project. The project is currently staying in budget. A discussion ensued.
- Elderrean Paules stated that everything at Monarca Place has been quiet. There are two empty apartments as of this weekend. There were 4 people that have moved out of the building. A discussion ensued.
- Joseph Carta mentioned that Karen Nocera and Keith Vinci went to River's Edge Condominiums on Monday, November 3rd. The door is very heavy and there is no automatic press button to get in or out. There is no accessibility at all getting into and out of the building. A letter needs to be sent to the Office of Protection and Advocacy with a copy sent to River's Edge management company regarding this issue. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera stated that Recreation/Community and Services Department will be moving into our new facility in about a month's time. We will have a facility that we will be sharing. The official title is Recreation and Community Services. The Committee will be meeting at this new location beginning in January. We had the Fall Festival this weekend and it was a great success. There were over 1100 children that went through. A discussion ensued.
- Keith Vinci asked if the Committee should look over the letter that Laura Runte will be sending out to the Office of Protection and Advocacy or if she should just send it out. Karen Nocera stated that it would be better for the letter to just go out directly. All previous letters should be attached to this new letter to the Office of Protection and Advocacy pertaining to this issue. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight stated that he spoke at the moderator training session. He also explained the IVS system. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Karen Nocera asked about the vacancy on the Committee. Marty Knight stated that Richard Pelletier had someone in mind for the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities. He was going to approach them and see if they would be interested in serving on the Committee. Karen Nocera explained Unified Theater. She stated that they average about 40 children. It is for kids of all abilities but they like to highlight children with disabilities so that it is their moment to shine. This is student led and student directed. The students do every aspect of this. Keith Vinci teaches the sign language with the children as they sing. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment: *A motion of adjournment was made by Elderrean Paules and was seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte