

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

100 Riverview Center, Recreation Department

December 2, 2014

6:00 PM

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

Absent: Marie Hurley, Richard Pelletier

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director, Recreation/Community Services, 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 6:00pm.

3. Public Hearing:

Sgt. Godwin stated that the sign was removed from Pleasant and Church Streets. In the future, if there are any other issues, please let the police department know so that they can help. The intersection of Washington Street and Newfield Street there was an issue about the cross walk. He spoke to the State and they were fine with the fact that the city is going to pave the area and maintain. Sgt. Godwin is working with the State regarding the timing of the walk signals at the intersection of Main and Washington Streets. This issue is not resolved yet. In terms of the pedestrian walk buttons, he did investigate whether the technology exists where a low tone from the button can be made to direct you towards the button. The technology does exist however it is very costly. It is up to the City if they can fund it. The buttons give off a pleasant low tone directing/helping you find it. If the Committee is willing to provide Sgt. Godwin with a date, perhaps after winter, they can have a walking tour. A discussion ensued.

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 4, 2014, was made by August DeFrance and seconded by Elderrean Paules. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that we are moving into the new building and it will be occupied this coming week. A discussion ensued.
- Elderrean Paules stated that Monarca Place is full again. There were 2 empty apartments and now they are full. A discussion ensued.
- Phil Cacciola mentioned that focus needs to be made on enforcement of sidewalk accessibility. There are issues with Brew Bakers having their tables blocking sidewalks. Mezzo Grille signs are also obstructing the sidewalk. Phil stated that he called Ricky Romano and it still continues to be a problem. Sgt. Godwin stated that while officers are walking their beat, if there is an obstruction in the sidewalk they will tell the store owner. This is not as much of a problem in the Winter but in the Spring it is. A discussion ensued. Phil discussed that the Chamber of Commerce called him with an urgent request for a sign language interpreter because they had a deaf participant coming to an expo that was being held. Normally, you would need to give ten days notice for an interpreter however he was given only two. He called Keith Vinci and Keith was able to assist. He encourages anyone who encounters this issue again to contact Keith. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera stated that they are working on the Annual Toy Drive and letters to Santa. A discussion ensued.

- Joseph Carta asked about the letter to the Office of Protection and Advocacy. Karen Nocera read the letter aloud to the Committee. Laura Runte wrote and sent the letter. A copy of this letter will also be sent to River's Edge property management company. A discussion ensued.
- Debbie Stanley stated that Recreation/Community and Services Department will be moving into our new facility on Monday. The CCPD meetings will be held at the new building on Durant Terrace. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight stated that the dates for the 2015 CCPD meeting dates have to be voted on. The meetings will remain the first Tuesday of each month. A motion to approve the Committee Concerning People with Disabilities 2015 meeting dates was made by Elderrean Paules and seconded by August DeFrance. The motion passed.
- Keith Vinci asked if there was any update on getting another committee member. Marty stated that Richard was supposed to get back to him with a suggestion but has not gotten back to him as of yet. Keith suggested that maybe the Chamber of Commerce would have a suggestion. Marty reiterated that this new committee member has to be a Republican, Independent or Unaffiliated voter. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Phil Cacciola brought up potential future project of working with Chamber of Commerce to designate those businesses in their directory that are fully accessible.

Adjournment: *A motion of adjournment was made by August DeFrance and was seconded by Elderrean Paules. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte