

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

61 Durant Terrace – Recreation/Community Service Building

June 2, 2015

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Marie Hurley, Richard Pelletier, Skylar Binney – Youth In Government

Absent: Joe Carta was unable to attend via conference call because his personal phone was not working properly, Phil Caciola, Keith Vinci

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director, Recreation/Community Services, Karen Nocera, Recreation/Community Services

General Public: McKenzie Guevarez and Paiton Guevarez.

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:04pm.

3. Public Hearing: McKenzie reported that a sidewalk on Spring Street is not wheel chair accessible. The exact location is Spring Street going towards Main Street. It was in front of the apartment building. Deb Stanley stated that she will notify Billy Russo and Ricky Romano. Public Session closed.

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 5, 2015, was made by Marie Hurley and seconded by Elderrean Paules. Richard Pelletier abstained from voting because he was not present at last meeting. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that the Eckersley Hall building committee did not have a meeting. The committee members voted by email to pay some bills. A discussion ensued.
- Marie Hurley stated that she attended the Mattabassett project meeting. The piping is continuing to be installed and the casings are in place near the railroad in Cromwell. They are waiting on pricing for some other type of piping that is required. She believes that there will be a referendum in November. There is not enough money for the pumping station. The first bid that went out had only 1 contractor responding. They are redesigning everything and there may be a referendum in November for more funding. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier stated that the riverfront project with Planning and Zoning is slow moving because of the pump station issue. The meetings are very slow moving. A discussion ensued.
- Elderrean Paules stated that all of the units at Monarca Place are filled and that all is good.
- Skylar Binney, a student at Vinal High School, stated that there are renovations taking place at Vinal High School. He was asked by committee members to keep an eye on the renovations to make sure that all accommodations are made for those that are disabled. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera expressed that the Recreation Department is heading into the summer season. There are about 30-35 students that need support over the summer. They have hired paraprofessionals, support staff and counselors and at this time they are at 200 staff members for the summer. There are 2 students that have autism whose parents were told to come to Middletown because the programming is great for those children with special needs. A discussion ensued.

- Debbie Stanley reported that at the Senior Services Department, Judge Joe Marino will be speaking on last wills and testaments. We also have Polynesian night with food and music. We are hiring additional summer staff to assist with the increase of participants. A discussion ensued.
- Marty stated that a letter was received from the Office of Fair Housing. This letter was in response to the letter written from the committee regarding the door issue at River's Edge Condominium Association. Debbie explained that if the person with the complaint would come forward and contact office of Protection and Advocacy directly it would be better. This was told to Debbie by Elanah Sherman. A large part of the problem is that the complainant does not want to be identified. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Ellie mentioned that there is a fundraiser to benefit the Lion's Club at Denny's restaurant in Middletown. This is an all-day fundraiser that will be held on Thursday, June 4th. A portion of all proceeds will go to the Middletown Lion's Club. Laura created and posted a flyer on the Community Center bulletin board and also left flyers on all tables in the cafeteria. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier mentioned that a new restaurant opened in the building that Fong's used to occupy. There is a question as to how someone that is disabled is able to enter the building. It is one of the least accessible buildings in Middletown. A discussion ensued.
- Marty asked about summer meetings for the Committee Concerning people with Disabilities. Typically, the committee does not meet in July and August. Marie Hurley made a motion to not have meetings in July and August. This was seconded by Richard Pelletier and passed unanimously.

Adjournment: *A motion of adjournment was made by August DeFrance and was seconded by Richard Pelletier. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte