



City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities
155 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2023 - 6:30pm
Meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Please note: John Gentile will setup a ZOOM meeting.

Attendance: John Gentile (Chairman), Rose Marie Bouclier, Frank Reed

Excused: Frank Reed, John Neumuller Fran Ryan Jeff Doyle, Quentin Huges, John Neumuller

Guests: Isabel Domber, Todd DeLuke

- John Gentile: Welcome & Introduction: 6:36 PM, 04/11/23
- Review and Acceptance: Motion to Accept Minutes 02/14/23 Roe Marie B., 2nd Frank Reed, All Yes
- Phone Log: No new phone messages this month
- Old Business, Announcements, Updates:
 - 1) Commissioners Updates – John N., Fran R. Jeff D. and Quentin H. Excused
 - 2) Update on COVID restrictions – We will continue to hold Zoom meetings, will address in Sept.
- Seeking One Regular & Three alternates: No interest to date of meeting
- Social media report: **Jeff Doyle to Report –Facebook** Facebook.com/DanburyC4PWD Follows: 825 (as of 3/14/2023) **Twitter** Twitter.com/DanburyC4PWD 353 followers (as of 6/9/2020) No new update as Jeff D not in attendance
- Handicap Parking Update – John N., Jeff D, not in attendance No new update on Parking.
- On Demand Transportation: Not discussed at this meeting
 - o Kept as an open item
- New Business: Presentation on the Pegasus Program – Todd DeLuke
Spoke on the Pegasus Program and how it applies and supports Children and Adults with disAbilities. Uses include hippo therapy as well as therapy for individuals with physical disAbilities, mental illness, autism, development disAbilities, Veterans, First Responders and those dealing with PTSD
The Pegasus program also covers all aspects of working with horses including grooming, feeding, watering and basic caring of the animal.
Todd will check if this therapy is covered under ones health insurance, he believes in most cases it should be covered.
Isabel asked if the program provides transportation? Todd said he was not sure but would look into it.
The Program is located in Westchester County, NY as well as certain areas of Fairfield County, CT.
Frank related a story with a range of motion issue of a young individual being able to exceed their range of motion because they were inspired by the Therapy Pony introduced in their therapy.
We offered advice for Todd to possibly reach out to the different school districts in the area, to introduce the program to them as a start. The City of Danbury is looking int buying the Happy Trails Horse Farm.
Isabell raised the issue on the upcoming referendum on the upgrade to the water treatment plant. She said she believes her voter registration is still mixed up? Suggest she follow up with the Registrar.

- Open Discussion: Entertain a motion to Adjourn, Rose Marie, Motion, John G. 2nd 7:19 PM. Next meeting will be May 9, 2023, 6:30 PM

We work to put the "A" in ability - the Commission has many goals including focusing on the Abilities of those with disAbilities. The Commission was established to advise the Mayor and the Common Council of the needs of persons with disAbilities within the community with relation to housing, economics, employment, transportation, health, recreation and other matters. The Commission was formed by Sec. 2-56.13 of the City of Danbury Code of Ordinances. The City of Danbury Commission for Persons with disAbilities meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at Danbury City Hall, at 6:30pm. We do not meet in July and August.