



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2022 - 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, Quentin Hughes, John Neumuller, Frances Ryan

Excused: Chad Sinanian, Frank Reed, Jeff Doyle

Guests: Isabel Domber, Sofia Carvalho

- John Gentile: Welcome & Introduction (6:35 PM & Nov. 8, 2022)

Review and Acceptance of the Sept. 9, 2022 Minutes – John Neumuller - Motion, Fran Ryan – 2nd, All – Yes.

- Phone Log: Received a Call from person who has a Family Member with an Intellectual disability who happens to be a Senior Citizen, that was never diagnosed and is now looking for services. Call the person back but she was working the polls today and would not be available until tomorrow. - I will follow up.

Sofia asked, what services do we provide? Simple answer we don't we usually direct people to Local, State or Federal Agencies, as well as private organizations that can address the specific need of the person asking for help.

- Old Business, Announcements, Updates:

- 1) Commissioners Updates – Gave an update on Chad and Frank they are doing OK, Chad not happy that the Phillies lost the World Series but as a consolation the Jets are having a good season. Frank still dealing with health issues but otherwise doing fine.

Sofia asked, how do people know that Commission exists, do we recruit people if so how? We get the word out via Social Media, we have a phone listing on the Cities Directory, we are listed on the Cities website and word of mouth

Fran expressed some difficulty in navigating the Cities website to find the Commission and Commission information.

- 2) Update on COVID restrictions – Although City Hall is open, we will still meet via Zoom perhaps we will meet in person in the Spring.

- Seeking One Regular & Three alternates: At this time

- Social media report: **Jeff Doyle to Report**

Facebook Facebook.com/DanburyC4PWD Likes: 222 Follows: 229 (as of 6/9/2020) **Twitter**

Twitter.com/DanburyC4PWD 353 followers (as of 6/9/2020)

- On Demand Transportation:

- Kept as an open item

- New Business:

- Follow up on the disAbility tax assessment benefit for motor vehicles. Clarified that information from the

assessor's office was not correct, after speaking with the Assessor Donna Murphy. Also, as I reviewed the process to file for the Tax Assessment Benefit for people with disabilities, I found it to be somewhat discriminatory based on the State requirements to receive the benefit. I will follow ups with the Les Pinta Cities, Corporation Council...

- All: Open Discussion

John N. discussed that Danbury Hospital in no longer in compliance with handicap parking as they closed Rizzo Garage? Seem there are structural issue with the garage. John N. is looking to address the issue with the State Representatives

Sophia, raised the issue of the hospital does not adequately staffing and is putting the patients at risk. The night nurse to patient ratio is 12:1.

Fran directed Sophia to a Professor Zach Cooper, at Yale, he did a paper on consolidation of Hospitals.

Sophia, asked if we believe the CEO of the hospital in not doing what is right for patients is there something City Hall can do? John N. stated that that rest with the Hospital's Board of Directors who make the hiring and firing decisions. John G, stated as long as they are meeting the State and Federal requirements for addressing patient need there is not much that can be done.

Motion to adjourn 7:44 PM, John N, Motion, Rosemarie B 2nd , All Yes.

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.

Subject: Re: Commission on Disability