

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Advisory Committee for People With Disabilities acceptance.]

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 2007

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Present:

Carol Keenan, Chairperson
Joan Haines, Vice Chairman
Jim Grise
Christine Taylor
Frank Meunier, Jr.

Liaison:

Natalie Morrison, Parks and Recreation Department
Steve Kirsche, Town Council Liaison

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

One member of the public who was not able to attend was having some problems with transportation. She has been working with Connecticut Transit and they have been very responsive. She is having trouble with the drivers for Dial-a-Ride as far as consistency. They all seem to have their own rules as to how and where the passengers can sit. One adult boarded the bus and there were no straps for her.

III. MINUTES of the September 20, 2006 meeting

A MOTION was made by Frank Meunier, Jr. to accept [the minutes of the May 23, 2007 meeting](#). Seconded by Joan Haines. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Group Home Visits

Christine Taylor has been in contact with Mark Ritter of Key Services. She made them aware of summer picnic and hopes to make a visit to the group home soon.

Individuals from three different group homes participated at the Special Olympics this year. They competed in 3-4 events and each participant won at least 2 medals.

B. Seniors

The last meeting for seniors was in May. There are no meetings during the summer. The next meeting will be in September.

Participation at the Senior Net program has been good. Attendance at the Senior Meals Program is steady but we would like to see more seniors attending.

C. Parks and Recreation

Natalie Morrison attended a First Responder Professional Needs Course. A lot of the information

related to autism can be used for the Summer Camp Programs.

Thirty-five athletes participated at the Special Olympic Regional Games in May. Twenty-five of them went on to the State Games held over a 3-day period at Southern.

Unified Bocce started last Wednesday, June 13th. There are 7 athletes and unified partners participating. Unified Golf began Monday, June 18th with 13 athletes and unified partners.

Summer Programs begin Monday, June 25th. Adult Programs are ongoing.

The Park and Recreation Department received a \$100,000 grant from the State for Millwoods.

The Summer Picnic will be held Friday July 27, 2007 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Millwoods. Anyone interested in helping please call Natalie Morrison at 721-2952.

There was a discussion on how to increase participation of special needs children in the Town of Wethersfield's after school and summer programs. Carol Keenan suggested having a representative from the Board of Education come to WACPD meeting to discuss this issue.

A MOTION was made by Frank Meunier, Jr. to approve of a donation for the Summer Picnic as needed. Seconded by Jim Grise. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

The Third Annual Roaring Thunder Motorcycle Ride is Sunday July 29th beginning at Gengras Motors in East Hartford and ending at Foxwoods. Meal vouchers will be provided for all the riders. Foxwoods is also providing the Grand Prize of a Weekday Getaway and dinner for two. There will also be bus trip provided on that day and those taking the bus will also receive meal vouchers and play tickets. This event is to benefit Special Olympics.

D. Transportation/Dial-A-Ride

E. Update on Resource Booklet

Copies of the Resource Booklet have been distributed to the Town Manager and the State Library for the Handicapped in Rocky Hill and the Wethersfield Library.

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. OTHER

A. ADA Compliance

Steve Kirsche said the Town Council has discussed how the WACPD can help provide input to the Building Committees for construction plans. Right now blueprints are required to meet ADA Compliance but sometimes only by the bare minimum. It would be useful to have someone sit in during the design and construction phases to suggest what may be appropriate in the future. The Town Council would like to offer the WACPD the opportunity to elect someone from their Committee to be included in all Building Committee meetings and correspondence. Although the liaison would not be a voting member they will be able to provide input during meetings.

A MOTION was made by Frank Meunier, Jr. to elect Jim Grise as the liaison for the Building Committees. Seconded by Christine Taylor. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

There was a discussion the problems at CVS with their handicapped ramps and lack of a covered entrance. Joan Haines pointed out that Walgreen's right next door has done an excellent job of meeting the needs of the handicapped and she thought that the handicapped might boycott CVS in favor of Walgreen's because of this. They also discussed the handicapped ramp accessing the library and the lack of a covering for protection. Steve Kirsche said unfortunately a covered ramp was not in

the Town's budget.

Christine Taylor said she went to a meeting called Eye Opener which is a program helping older adults with severe vision loss. She has some regulations she received from that meeting on ADA Compliance. Christine said she would distribute copies at the September meeting. She suggested inviting Candace Lowe of Independence Unlimited to speak at a WACPD meeting. She is very knowledgeable about ADA Regulations.

- B. Carol Keenan announced that the Town Council is giving the WACPD \$2,000 for their budget.
- C. The State of Connecticut opened up the Section 8 Voucher Program and State Rental Assistance Program waiting lists. The deadline to sign up is July 2nd. Applications will be accepted from elderly disabled single member households and families. Applicants must be 18 years or older to apply. Applicants with disabilities who require assistance can call 211, the United Way Info Line. Hearing impaired individuals may contact the Department at 1-800-842-4524.
- D. Playing It Safe, Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities and Senior is being held September 8th at the Meat Market Place in Hartford. Anyone interested can call Elena Sherman at 860-297-4322.
- E. There is a new healthcare program for Seniors in Connecticut called Senior Whole Healthcare. It eliminates all co pays and reduces or eliminates premiums. There are no pre-authorization requirements.
- F. **A MOTION was made by Frank Meunier, Jr. to adjourn. Seconded by Joan Haines. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**The next WACPD meeting will be held Wednesday September 19, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen A. Knapp
Recording Secretary