

WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2014

In attendance: Joan Haines (Co-Chair), Tony Martino (Council Liaison), Natalie Morrison (P & R), Chris Taylor (S & Y), Lee Sekas, Terry Hulbert, Joselyn Valente.

- Joan Haines brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm. She welcomed newest member Joselyn Valente. She asked if she could get a full list of members and their contact info by next meeting. Joan had visited Carol Keenan recently and said she was doing well and was comfortable at the Greenridge Assisted Living facility in Rocky Hill.
- Public Comments: Lee Sekas mentioned that he had recently tried to inquire about an upcoming June 13th Chamber of Commerce Fundraising bus trip to a CT casino. He was told that the bus (that has already been contracted for) did not have wheelchair accommodations, so that he would not be able to go. Other committee members suggested he speak with C of C representative Stacy Hodges to clarify if people with disabilities can be considered for future trips.
- The minutes of March 19, 2014 were reviewed. A motion was made by Terry Hulbert to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Lee Sekas. The motion passed.
- Natalie Morrison discussed the activities of the Group Homes in Town. She has many of the residents participating in the Special Olympic Track and Field practices for the upcoming Summer Games.
- Chris Taylor announced that a Senior Center educational event will be held at the Pitkin Community Center on May 19th 1-4pm entitled "Happy Trails to You". It will have many CT businesses that participate in Wine, Art, Chocolate, Ice Cream, Dinosaur and Burgers/Dogs Trails. Please contact Social and Youth Services Dept. and the Senior Center for more information.
- Chris Taylor advised the committee that the Social & Youth Services Department is just wrapping up the State's Energy Assistance program on May 1, 2014. The department is accepting applications for the State's Renter's Rebate program that has just begun and will continue until Oct. 1, 2014. She also mentioned a few Mental Health meetings and a Dental Clinic that will be up-coming. For more information on these events, please contact Chris Taylor at 860-721-2977.
- Natalie Morrison commented that thru Parks and Recreation – the Special Olympic Winter Games were a success with many athletes bringing home ribbons. Soccer and Track/Field training has begun for the 3 day Summer Games in June. Her Therapeutic Recreation Adults Club has about 20-25 members and had a planning meeting recently to discuss future trips and events. The Parks and Recreation Dept. sponsored the Good Ole Fishing Derby on Saturday, April 12th. 127 children signed up and prizes were given out for biggest fish, smallest fish, most unusual catch and for a few specially tagged fish. Plans are just beginning for the annual Roaring Thunder Motorcycle event in the fall to benefit Special Olympics. Natalie advised the Committee that recently Kathy Bagley has been named as Director of Social and Youth Services in conjunction with her position as Director of P & R.

- Joan Haines announced that Loretta's Dream Pavilion has been completed and a formal dedication date has not been planned as yet (Per K. Bagley).
- Chris Taylor updated the committee on the results from the transportation discussion at March's meeting. A survey will be sent (first week of May) to users of the dial-a-ride program to get ideas as to what trip locations would be of interest. Drivers will also be take note of lengths of time needed at certain stops and report back to their supervisors. Hopefully new implementations can be in place by July 1.
- Joan Haines suggested that we invite the WHS Jets Engineering Club to our next meeting to congratulate them on their recent win. They designed an adaptive work related device for a disabled individual. Joan will see if a plaque and/or refreshments can be obtained before the May 21st meeting.
- Terry Hulbert asked if the committee members knew of any computer classes in the Library or thru the BOE Adult Education that had adaptive devices on their computers for the blind. Members suggested that he call both the Library and BOE to inquire if needed.
- Tony Martino (Council Liaison) announced that the Town Council was working on the Town Budget and they should pass the budget in mid-May.
- Terry Hulbert motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Chris Taylor. Motion passed – meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted by
Natalie Morrison
Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor