

[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 OCTOBER 17, 2007**

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Present:

Carol Keenan, Chairperson
Jim Grise
Frank Meunier, Jr.
Christine Taylor

Liaison:

Natalie Morrison, Parks and Recreation Department

Excused:

Joan Haines, Vice Chairman

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. MINUTES of the June 20, 2007 meeting

A MOTION was made by Jim Grise to accept the [minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting](#) as presented. Seconded by Frank Meunier, Jr. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Group Home Visits

First Church Village is going through the installation of a new more efficient and environmentally aware lighting system for the outdoors. The project should be finished by the end of November.

Welcome to the new residents who recently joined Lasher Court!

B. Seniors

The seniors had a meeting last month and the next meeting will be held on October 18, 2007. Individuals from Independence Unlimited and The Corporation of Independent Living will be the guest speakers.

The Senior Advisory Committee is discussing some educational programs, including one on Emergency Preparedness.

The Department of Social and Youth Services is very busy getting ready for their holiday events. The CRT Energy Assistance Program is available to those in need. The State has a grant called the Connecticut National Caregiver Respite Care Program. This is for people 60 and older who have caregivers that need respite but want to make sure that their loved one is taken care of while they are given some time away. The Resource Booklets continue to be handed out at the Department of Social

and Youth Services.

C. Parks and Recreation

Programs are continuing as usual, including bowling and basketball. Qualifiers are being held in the upcoming weeks. The State Tournament for bowling and basketball will be in the middle of November.

The Thanksgiving Dinner is being held on November 13, 2007 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The Holiday Party is on December 18, 2007 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The Butterbraid and Cookie Dough Fundraisers are being held until October 22, 2007.

The parents of the Special Olympic Athletes have decided to hold another dinner/dance and auction to raise money for the Special Olympics needs. The event is scheduled for February 1, 2008.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee for People with Special Needs is looking for members to join a subcommittee to help with information gathering. Contact Natalie at the Park and Recreation Department if you know anyone who might be interested in joining.

Eight bids came in for renovation at the Community Center and one was accepted for the renovating the gym.

D. Transportation/Dial-A-Ride

A new company is now in charge of running the ADA para-transit program.

E. Update on Resource Booklet

Additional Resource Booklets will be printed as needed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ramp access to the Library is still not completed. Curb cuts will be added in the future for easier access to the ramp entrance.

There was a discussion about the handicap ramps at the CVS store not being conveniently located for the disabled. They are not in front of the entrance to the store, which makes access difficult. Also, there is no canopy covering the handicapped parking spaces.

A suggestion was made to move the curb cuts and disabled parking closer to the entrance. Jim Grise said he would try to find out the name of a contact at the regional office so the WACPD could send a letter addressing this issue.

VI. OTHER

The Courtyard by Marriott in Wallingford will hold the National Federation of the Blind Connecticut State Convention the weekend of November 2-4.

With an upcoming election, Frank Meunier, Jr. suggested having someone from the Secretary of States office come to a meeting to talk about voting machines.

A MOTION was made by Frank Meunier, Jr. to adjourn. Seconded by Frank Grise. All were in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen A. Knapp
Recording Secretary