

Minutes

Mansfield Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday April 27, 2010

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

I. Recording Attendance

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), Maria Capriola (Assistant to the Town Manager), W. Gibbs (Chair), J. Blanshard, K.A. Easley (staff), C. Colon-Semenza, F. Goetz
Regrets: J. Sidney, J. Tanner

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes for the meeting of March 23, 2010 were accepted as written.

III. New Business

- a. Review of role of the Committee as the Town's ADA Grievance Committee: Maria Capriola provided some background as to how the Town Council had assigned that role to this committee. She explained that she was able to identify only one ADA complaint that had been made dating back to the 1990's. The law requires that there be a committee that is charged with the responsibility for hearing complaints about ADA violations. She believes that likely complaints will be Title II complaints, which do not involve employment issues. F. Goetz raised some concerns about sidewalk maintenance, and wondered if this is something that people could file a complaint about. W. Gibbs said that the concern is about how to handle Title I complaints, and how complaints could be handled within the time frames identified in the policy. Maria explained that she or the Town Attorney could be available as a resource around specific issues requiring consultation. This has been spelled out in the Policy. Freedom Of Information laws allow special meetings to be called, as long as the agenda is posted 24 hours in advance. C. Colon-Semenza raised concerns about being able to attend meetings on a short notice. Maria explained that this is "minimum" notice time. We would need to have a quorum of members to take official action. What if a quorum of

members is not available to take action on a complaint? Maria suggested inserting a sentence in the timeline that offers a caveat that assumes the availability of members to take action on the complaint. Another suggestion is to add alternate members to the committee who can step in to satisfy the requirements of a quorum. KA Easley suggested changing the requirements from calendar days to business days to allow for more time. She also suggested that any notification be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, through the Town Manager's Office. The committee unanimously agreed to adopt the policy with the changes that were identified.

- b. Support for Program Amendment to fund accessibility improvements to a changing room at the Mansfield Community Center: M. Capriola explained that the Town is applying for a program amendment to a Community Block Grant program to use the funds to add an accessible changing room at the Community center. Funds for this grant do not come directly from the federal government, but through the State of CT. There was a requirement to hire an architect to develop the plans and to host a site visit for the DECD. The next step is to obtain approval from the Town Council at their meeting on May 10. It will take approximately one week to complete the project, once the funds are released. "Move, effective April 27, 2010, for the Town of Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities to support the Town's program amendment to the State Department of Economic and Community Development to use program income funds for accessibility improvements to the Mansfield Community Center family changing room." Motion was approved unanimously.
- c. Eastern CT Assistive Technology Center: K. Grunwald provided information about this new resource, which is located at the Windham Regional Community Council. He has invited staff from the Center to present to this Committee at a future meeting.
- d. "Other": K.Grunwald distributed copies of a policy regarding communications by advisory committees with outside agencies.

IV. Old Business

- a. Transportation Resources: K. Grunwald distributed copies of a guide to Transportation Resources in town.
- b. Network for parents of children with disabilities: Melissa Shippee has not been in touch regarding serving on this committee. C. Colon-Semenza suggested recruiting through the school nurses. K. Grunwald will contact the nurses and J. Blanshard will follow-up with recruiting through the bus company. K.A. Easley suggested first pulling information together about the Committee that can be used for recruitment.
- c. Accessible Parking Fines/Signs: A letter will be sent to all property owners who have been identified in town regarding the availability of signs that list the amount of the fine.

- d. Publicity efforts: J. Blanshard and J. Tanner will pursue this prior to the next meeting.
- e. Status of other accessibility issues previously identified: no discussion.

V. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM; next meeting May 25.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald