

Town of Greenwich
First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2019

9:15 a.m.

Department of Human Services Conference Room

Present: Alan Gunzburg/Chair; Jim Heavey; Jacalyn Pruitt; Joe Siciliano; Jim Michel; Kate Soboleva; Luis Velazquez; Alan Barry; Brita Darany von Regensburg; Lise Jameson

Opening remarks: The meeting was called to order at 9:15am. Alan Gunzburg complimented DPW. The completion of the Steamboat Road project was finished beautifully.

Approval of Minutes: A motion from Lise Jameson and a second from Luis Velazquez was made to accept minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting which passed unanimously.

Presentation: Thomas Naiman and Bonnie Newman, Maritime Museum - Accessibility for All
Tom Naiman, director of Education at the Maritime Museum introduced Accessibility for All, an educational program funded by the Fairfield Community Foundation focusing on accessibility and inclusion for everyone. The museum has introduced Sensory Friendly mornings encouraging special needs families to participate when the stimulation / crowds/ noise/ lighting is kept to a minimum. This programming is in addition to ADA compliance already in place. Families are very enthusiastic about these opportunities.

A website was developed to provide necessary information to special needs families so informed decisions could be made and a better planned visit. The website includes portals to each institution. <https://accessibilityforallCT.net> providing sensory friendly maps of participating institutions, including AFA – Accessibility for all and GP – general public.

Chief Heavey recognized the need to adjust Police Day to accommodate and include special needs.

Phase 2 Expand the education to other institutions with training and accommodations with training staff as a prerequisite. Phase 3 may lead to job shadowing. These are ageless designs – all populations of people could benefit from specialized accommodations – consider both a child with autism and an older adult with dementia.

The staff from Maritime center was congratulated for this excellent programming.

ADA Compliance updates:

- 2 ½ Dearfield Drive: redesigned their handicapped parking spots and an internal doorway was removed for easier access.
- 7 Riversville Road: discussion with management continues

New Business: A donor has been found to provide a beach mat at Tod's to be situated near the 1st concession stand to ensure people using a walker or wheelchair etc. have access to the water.

Distribution of Green envelopes aiding motorist with hearing impairment to signal to police officers their special need so communication can be modified.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 15 at 9:15 AM

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