

**Town of Greenwich**  
**First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities**  
Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2019  
Department of Human Services Conference Room

**Present:** Alan Gunzburg, Joe Dowling, Jim Heavey, Gaby Rattner, Brita Darany von Regensburg, Alan Barry, Michael Beloff, Stephanie Cowie, Jodi Couture, Jim Michel, Joe Siciliano

Guests: Barbara Ormerod-Glynn, Kate Soboleva, and Tatiana Flowers, Serena Perlman

**Introductions and Announcements:** The meeting was called to order at 9:17 am. Chairman, Alan Gunzburg welcomed the group and thanked them for their attendance at the meeting. After committee member introductions, Mr. Gunzburg announced the passing away of Committee Co-Chair, Paul Morrell and praised Mr. Morrell's commitment to the improvement of conditions for the disabled and his leadership role in guiding the Disabilities Committee.

**Beach Mat:** Mr. Gunzburg announced the beach mat ribbon cutting ceremony that took place at the Greenwich Point Park beach on June 19, 2019. The Lions Club was instrumental in funding and supporting efforts to increase access to Greenwich beaches for those residents that are disabled.

**Train Station:** The group briefly discussed the new proposal for renovating the Greenwich Train Station. Disability Committee members have complained about conditions in the train station, such as, elevator being in disrepair and difficulties with navigating wheel chairs in the station. Committee members want to make sure that ADA compliance is a part of the new train station renovation plans.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was introduced by Gaby Rattner and seconded by Chief Heavey to accept the meeting minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting; minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

**Greenwich Library Renovation Project:** Barbara Ormerod-Glynn and Kate Soboleva from the library described the upcoming renovation of the 104,000 square foot building. The renovation is set to begin on July 29<sup>th</sup> with reduced programs as the renovations take place over the next year. The goal is to have the library continue as the cultural center for the town into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There are on average about 1,800 visitors each day at the library. There is a firm commitment to ensure that the renovation will be in compliance with ADA regulations and reflect a welcoming environment for disabled residents. Renovations, such as, new location for entrance on the bottom floor, lower book shelves and 2 elevators are examples of how the library will be welcoming people with disabilities. Barbara and Kate encouraged committee members to visit the library website at [www.greenwichlibrary.org/reimagine](http://www.greenwichlibrary.org/reimagine)

**Old Business:** Committee members discussed the need for the newly installed beach mat to be swept and maintained in good condition throughout the summer. Sand and debris can become obstacles on the mat and prevent people from using it. Daily sweeping of the mat was highly recommended by the group. The Byram Pool bathroom doors were repaired after the committee complained about difficulties with opening the doors. Thanks to Mr. Monelli. There is now a grass mat in Loughlin Park

leading to the tennis/pickleball courts. Much better accessibility to the pickleball courts. Thanks to Joe Siciliano and the Parks and Recreation Department.

**New Business:** Discussion on need to have better more modern wheelchairs at the beach. Support in purchasing new wheelchairs and ensuring storage in a safe place that is accessible for disabled residents wanting to use the wheelchair. Sidewalk status was also discussed by the group and need to review plan for repairs. DPW Report is due in fall and discussion on a presentation at November's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 9, 2019 at 9:15 am

Guest Speaker: Caroline Bailey, Audubon Greenwich, Community Engagement Coordinator

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