

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Tracy Beland, Commissioner
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner, Secretary
Kristen Granatek, Commissioner
Greg Klimek, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Mary Fortier, City Council Liaison



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2019**

7:00 PM - Bristol City Hall First Floor Meeting Room

Our Mission

To Promote The Integration And Participation of Persons With Disabilities by Creating Economic, Housing, Political, And Social Opportunities Through Community Partnerships.

Present: Micari, Fortier, Beland, Ewings, Graime, Granatek, Klimek, Krolikowski

Absent: none

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: The March 13, 2019 minutes was approved (Klimek, Krolikowski).

Presentation: Sue Salters, Independence Unlimited, Hartford

Independence Unlimited serves 37 towns and is one of five such regional organizations in CT. Services including advocacy, referral, and aging-in-place evaluations, are provided by persons with disabilities or their family members, honoring the practice of peer support that took root in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Currently, elder mental health issues are the greatest need. Sue alluded to the Silver Tsunami trend, with Councilor Fortier stating that elders are the largest demographic in Bristol, far greater than in surrounding towns. Independence Unlimited promotes Visitability, a world-wide initiative, to keep elders out of "disability housing" and to encourage intergenerational living. Homes must have a no-step entrance, wide hallways and doorways, and an accessible main floor bathroom. Independence Unlimited has established an annual contest for high school and college students to design homes with these features.

New/Current Business

*The Commission warmly welcomed our new Commissioner, Gloria Ewings.

*Reports by Chairman Micari: 1. Dawn Neilson of BDA has agreed to draft a press release on behalf of the Commission, upon completion of the Divinity Street sidewalk repair. According to Public Works Director Ray Rogozinski, early spring is the target date for repair to begin; 2. Traffic Commander Lt. Duval will research the re-timing of audible crosswalk, as specific roadways first must be identified as local, state, or federal. This matter is a police traffic

division issue, not one of public works; 3. Regarding a citizen complaint about speeding on side roads: a default speeding limit of 25 miles per hour is in effect on streets in which no sign is posted.

- *Commissioners Beland and Granatek report no changes to the City webpage at this time. However, they expect to receive guidance from Cathy Savino regarding Facebook postings. Their present goal is to post organization/agency websites and contact information of Commission speakers.
- *A lengthy non-agenda discussion ensued on the progress of the Memorial Boulevard renovation.
- *Continuing the discussion on enhancing community awareness of this Commission: 1. Motion to create a subcommittee to clarify the Mission Statement and to compose a business card tagline. Subcommittee members are to include Chairman Micari, Commissioners Ewings and Graime (Klimek/Granatek, passed); 2. Discussion on business card design will continue at the May meeting; 3. The Disability Resource Guide lists state resources only. Chairman Micari will search for a list of local resources.
- *May 8 presentation: Lisa and Warren Corson, Pillwillop Farm

Old Business

- *Chairman Micari reminded Commissioners that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. He and Commissioner Krolikowski agreed to develop a nomination form to identify employers who demonstrate outreach in hiring persons with disabilities.

Correspondence

None

Public Participation

A citizen expressed that one way to encourage greater attendance at Commission meetings is to make the public more a part of the conversation. Commissioner Beland suggested holding a Meet & Greet at the September meeting, to be posted on Facebook.

Motion to adjourn/seconded: Klimek, Beland **Meeting adjourned:** 9:00 PM
Next meeting: May 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM First Floor Meeting Room

Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary