

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  
June 12, 2019**

**7:00 PM - Bristol City Hall Executive 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, Klimek (arrived 7:25), Krolikowski

**Absent:** Granatek

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The May 8, 2019 minutes was approved. (Krolikowski, seconded)

**Presentation:** Linda Lentini, Advocacy Unlimited

With immense reverence for individuals with lived experience in addiction, trauma, and recovery, Linda described the targeted programming by this statewide organization. Toivo is a community space providing varied healing modalities and stress management. Men's and women's support groups foster genuine change to Rise Above Your Circumstances. A course in Compassionate Activism teaches respectful communication of one's message, and the Hearing Voices Network assists persons to live with their sensory reality. An annual Karuna conference for practitioners promotes innovative approaches to recovery and wellness. On August 24, the annual Memorial Walk & Run will be held at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain to honor the memory of Sara Krolikowski. [www.advocacyunlimited.org](http://www.advocacyunlimited.org)

**New/Current Business**

1. Commissioner Beland discussed plans for the upcoming Meet & Greet as an opportunity to reach out to Bristol residents to inform of the Commission and local resources. This event will be held at the October 9 meeting; the Mayor and previous speakers will be invited to participate. Chairman Micari suggested inviting the Registrars for an update on voting issues for persons with disabilities, and will contact them. Announcements will be posted on social media sites and flyers printed for distribution at the September Bristol Cares meeting. Councilor Fortier suggested using the two first floor meeting rooms; she will ask the City Clerk for permission to expand the space.
2. In Commissioner Granatek's absence, Commissioner Beland reported that the Commission page on the City website is now fully updated, with categorized links to all local organizations presented at our meetings. Additions can easily be posted as needed. Commissioner Krolikowski addressed the need

for a handout showing clear instructions to access the website.

3. Commissioners Micari, Ewings, and Graime introduced several adaptations to the current mission statement; Commissioner Ewings' statement was chosen. A business card tagline also was proposed. Motion to change the mission statement and to adopt the tagline (Krolikowski, seconded, unanimous)

### **Our Mission**

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect

#### **Tagline:**

**A**dvocacy  
**C**ollaboration  
**T**ogetherness  
**I**nclusion  
**O**pportunity  
**N**o Limits

\*Next Steps: designing the card using the City emblem and Chairman Micari's contact information; Commissioner Beland to ask Cathy Savino about the use of an alternate contact email, if a personal e-address is not permitted.

4. Regarding the National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, Chairman Micari will distribute the nomination form and copies of the Dept. of Labor poster to media and local agencies; he will ask Cathy Savino to schedule the employer recognition during October's City Council meeting.
5. Councilor Fortier updated on the Memorial Boulevard School renovation, explaining that all updates are available to the public on the Board of Education website. She also referred to the art exhibit in the City Hall lobby by members of Bristol Adult Resource Center.
6. Chairman Micari, on behalf of the entire Commission, thanked Councilor Fortier for her ongoing guidance, response to questions of protocol, and genuine caring of disability issues.
7. September 11 presentation: Kristy Smith of Mosaic. Commissioner Beland proposed a visit of the students of the Functional Academics classes and agreed to arrange this for November.

### **Old Business**

Divinity Street sidewalk repair: Chairman Micari reported resentment among area residents who paid for their sidewalks, whereas the BDA provided low-income and disability funding for this purpose.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Public Participation**

None

**Motion to adjourn:** Klimek, seconded      **Meeting adjourned:** 8:50 PM

**Next meeting:** September 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM      First Floor Meeting Room

**Ruth Ann Graime, Secretary**

