

Town of West Hartford
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Monday, June 23, 2025, 7:00 PM
Elmwood Community Center Auditorium
MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Tara McNeil (Chair), Christine Hayden, Kimberly Jacobson, Joseph Kolczynski, Amy Messinger, Jason Mirsky, Elisa Neira, Jennifer Searls (Vice Chair)

Commission Members Not in Attendance: Erin Conneely, Christopher Holley, Brittany Koziara,

Guest(s) Present:

- Cynthia Lauture, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel, Town of West Hartford
- Lauren Moran, Law Clerk, Office of Corporation Counsel, Town of West Hartford

Opening:

Co-Chair Tara McNeil called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced Cynthia Lauture as the guest speaker for the meeting.

Speaker:

Cynthia introduced herself and Lauren to the commission. Cynthia briefly reviewed some tenets of the Freedom of Information Act as it pertains to the commission's meetings. The commission asked Cynthia various questions about how the commission could work including the development of working sub-groups of the commission, communicating appropriately between meetings, adding items to the agenda, and the use of special meetings.

New Business:

Kim Jacobson made a motion that the commission establish an Education working group. Tara McNeil seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tara McNeil, Amy Messinger, and Christine Hayden volunteered to be part of the Education Working Group.

Tara McNeil made a motion that the commission establish two additional working groups to focus on Communications and Programming. Kim Jacobson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jenn Searls and Elisa Neira volunteered to be part of the Communications Working Group. Kim Jacobson and Jenn Searls volunteered to be part of the Programming Working Group.

Cynthia suggested that the working sub-groups meet before the next meeting to establish their objectives and goals and be prepared to present to the commission at its September meeting.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the May 12 meeting were approved, one member abstained.

Town Staff Report: Suzanne Oslander was not able to attend the meeting. Tara McNeil reported on Suzanne's behalf. Suzanne asked that Tara pass out information on the town's Renter's Rebate, Farmers' Market, and utility programs. Tara also shared an update on the town's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition

Plan. The consultants have a few more months of work including site visits. Members of the public, including the commission, will have the opportunity to review the draft report when it is completed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, September 8, 2025 at Elmwood Community Center Auditorium at 7:00 pm.