

Town of West Hartford
Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Monday, March 9, 2026 7:00 PM
Elmwood Community Center Auditorium
MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Kimberly Jacobson, Joseph Kolczynski, Tara McNeil (Chair), Amy Messinger, Elisa Neira

Commission Members Not in Attendance: Brittany Koziara, Christine Hayden, Christopher Hlley, Jennifer Seals (Vice Chair)

Opening:

Tara McNeil called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. She shared that the town clerk recommended that any social media and email accounts specifically representing the Advisory Commission for Persons with Disabilities be discontinued. Facebook and Instagram are inactive. We will make a plan to discontinue the email address.

Tara shared that the Hartford Athletic soccer team is having a disability inclusion night on 4/11/26 at 7pm. Jordan Thompson is the contact person for more information and their email address is jthompson@hartfordathletic.com.

Leah Farrell, Program, Publicity and Outreach librarian, will join us at our next meeting on May 11th to discuss ways to make the library and its programs more accessible.

Reports:

Town Staff Report - Suzanne Oslander not in attendance. No report.

Education Working Group - Amy Messinger of the Education Working Group drafted an introductory letter intended to introduce the commission to stakeholders.

Communications Working Group - Elisa Neira reiterated that the Facebook and Instagram pages for the commission have been taken down based on guidance from Cooperation Counsel. If commission members feel comfortable they are encouraged to share events on their personal social media accounts. Other outlets such as Weha.com, West Hartford Life and reaching out to Renee McCue, West Hartford's public relations specialist. Elisa also shared that the revised annual report was submitted to the Town Clerk's office in January.

Programming Working Group - Kim Jacobson reported that the viewing and panel discussion of Crip Camp at the Noah Webster library on 2/28 was completed. The next event will be on 4/28/26 at 6:30 at the Noah Webster Library and is titled Opening Doors: Navigating Fair Housing and Disability Rights. For Disability Pride month in July, a book club type of event is being planned.

Ongoing Business: No ongoing business

New Business: No new business

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 at Elmwood Community Center Auditorium at 7:00 pm.